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A
JOURNAL,
KEPT ON A
JOURNEY
FROM
BASSORA TO BAGDAD;
OVER THE
LITTLE DESERT,
TO
ALEPPO, CYPRUS,
RHODES, ZANTE, CORFU;
AND
OTRANTO, IN ITALY;
In the YEAR 1779.

BY A GENTLEMAN,
Late an Officer in the Service of the Honourable EAST-
INDIA COMPANY:

CONTAINING
An Account of the Progress of Caravans over the
Desert of ARABIA;
Mode and Expences of Quarantine;
Description of the Soil, Manners and Customs of the
various Countries on this extensive Route, &c. &c.

H O R S H A M:
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THE Author deeming it necessary that something should be said to justify the publication of the following sheets, begs to observe, that at the time his remarks were made, they were taken solely for his amusement ;—he had not at that period the most distant idea of ever making them public ; but having, at the earnest solicitations of some friends, been prevailed upon to depart from his original design, he hath only to offer in his defence, that however imperfect this work may be considered by some, it is entirely grounded on facts ; he having in no instance intentionally deviated from the truth : Wherever his shortness of abode would not admit of a particular description of the manners, customs, &c. of places, he has endeavoured to supply that deficiency by adopting the ideas of those friends who have actually resided there.

The Journalist hath been further induced to suffer this tract to be published, from a hope that it will be found useful to persons in a similar situation, and be a means of guarding them against the various deceptions and impositions which he experienced, and that are daily practised in those Eastern countries through which he has so lately passed.

These

ADVERTISEMENT.

These united circumstances have been the only means that could possibly have prevailed on the Author to have submitted this work to the Public, plain and simple as it is, unadorned either with elegance of stile or expression; trusting, therefore, that the judicious and candid reader will make all due allowances for the errors and inaccuracies that may be discovered, and accept of his intention as an extenuation of them, and as a sufficient Apology.

ERRATA.

Page 2, line 2, for *the* servant, read *A* servant.—Page 28, line 2, for *preposition*, read PROPOSITION.—Page 37, line 10, for *to is*, read *is to*.—Page 44, line 18, for 300,000, read 100,000.—Page 48, for 12,000, read 1,200.—Page 50, for *Nader Shaw*, read NADIR SHAH.

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Mr. J. H. P. [illegible]

1871

P R E F A C E.

THE love of novelty is one of the main springs of human action ! Whether we examine what passes within our own breasts, or whether we contemplate the conduct of others, we shall find this position to be true ; indeed, it is next to impossible it should be otherwise. Man is a creature too imperfect and unsteady to be invariably content : he is ever restless in pursuit, ever wandering with ceaseless avidity from one object to another ! This principle it is true is the fruitful cause of many evils, but it is also productive of many advantages ; without such an
a impulse,

impulse, how dull and insipid would be the state of human life! It would be little better than the contracted existence of a particular species of shell fish, which are stationed as it were on a rock, and never move from the narrow spot assigned them, 'till the moment of their dissolution arrives. Nature, however, has happily curb'd the impetuosity of this curious spirit; she has implanted in us such a dread of Death, as will not suffer us to fling away our existence in fanciful and chimerical pursuits. What Nature has thus implanted, Religion has improv'd; and Man himself, conscious of the frailties which hang about him, has, in every period of the civiliz'd world, enacted laws to confine within salutary bounds, the eccentric fallies of this propensity. Thus Nature, Religion, and Policy, all act as powerful antidotes
against

against error, and point out, by a certain clue, the path in which we should walk. But if, after all this, man will give way to his own impetuosity, he does but insult his All-beneficent Maker, when he ascribes to him the miseries into which the abuse of his own faculties has plunged him. It is at all times our duty to *vindicate the ways of God to Man*. And observations of this kind come with peculiar propriety from the traveller, who, by means of the variety of objects with which he is necessarily conversant, is better qualified to expatiate on the wisdom and goodness of Providence, so conspicuous in every part of the visible world. But the knowledge of the traveller may be useful, when communicated, in other respects. His discoveries will naturally excite a laudable curiosity among men; and every danger he has surmounted, will

2 2

induce

induce others to attempt what without such incitement might not so readily have been thought of. Indeed, we cannot but confess, that he who first trusted himself to the winds and the waves, must have been a man of uncommon intrepidity. Many must have been the struggles, ere a fortitude so rare could be acquir'd. Successive relations of escapes from the horrors of the deep must have been necessary to remove the timidity natural to man in the contemplation of a scheme so vast and tremendous as that of passing from one quarter of the globe to the other, over a trackless and immense ocean. Nor was there less encouragement wanting to induce men to relinquish their long-accustom'd scenes of domestic pleasure, in order to explore the boundless desert, and search after new funds of happiness amid objects

P R E F A C E.

jects big with terror, and threat'ning destruction on every side.—We read that the Phœnecians learnt the art of navigation in the Red Sea, before they ventured to cross the Mediterranean. The voyages of those days were attended with much greater hazard than we in these times need be apprehensive of. The ancients, it is well known, were directed in their schemes of navigation by the stars, a very uncertain and precarious clue! The moderns, on the other hand, have a guide which in very few instances deceives them: It is obvious enough that since the discovery of the magnet, the dangers of the sea have been comparatively inconsiderable. The first vessels used in navigation were in point of construction and size, unequal to one of our modern barges; one improvement, however, has added to another, till by the accumulated skill
and

and experience of ages, the art of constructing vessels arose to its utmost perfection, and displayed all its wonders in a *first-rate man of war*. And as these successive improvements have rendered voyages abundantly more safe and commodious, so the observations which have been made from time to time on the customs, government, and manners of foreign nations, have rendered geography more accurate, and produced a liberality of sentiment to which the most refined sages of antiquity were strangers. It is well known that the geography of the ancients was miserably defective ; and it is equally certain that the estimate which foreign nations formerly made of each other, was exceedingly narrow and illiberal. The Greeks, polish'd and accomplish'd as they were, even to a proverb, thought all the rest of the world, besides themselves,

selves, Barbarians. The Romans in their turn adopted the same arrogant opinion. But the extensive intercourse which is now kept up between nation and nation, has enlarged and expanded the human heart to a degree unknown before, even under all the advantages of which Philosophy so proudly boasted.

To these general remarks, I hope I may without vanity add, that the information conveyed in the following little tract, may be peculiarly useful to Britons, whose commerce with the Eastern world is now of such real concern, as to make every thing which relates to it more or less interesting. The land passage to India is now more frequented than formerly, and is on many occasions preferred to the longer and more tedious one by sea. Every thing therefore which may in the slightest degree tend to facilitate that passage, is an object

ject of public attention. The vicissitudes so observable in the countries through which the author travelled, and that perpetual fluctuation to which they are subject, make it every man's duty, who has been careful enough to minute down the particulars of his passage, to communicate them for the benefit of others; and the more frequent such communications are made, the more serviceable are they likely to prove. Where power is ever changing hands, and imposition assuming new shapes, the latest descriptions must undoubtedly be the best. I shall give my readers one striking instance of the utility of these narratives:

The celebrated AARON HILL, when in Egypt, had the curiosity to examine a catacomb; he was accompanied in his expedition by two other gentlemen, and conducted by a guide, (one of the natives

P R E F A C E. ix

natives of the country.) They at length arrived at the spot, and without taking notice of some fellows who were fauntering about the place, they descended by ropes into the vault. No sooner were they let down, than they were presented with a spectacle which struck them with terror: Two gentlemen, apparently starv'd to death, lay before them. One of these unhappy victims had a tablet in his hand, on which was written, in pathetic language, the story of their lamentable fate: It seems they were brothers of rank and family in Venice, and having in the course of their travels entrusted themselves with one of the natives, for the purpose of visiting the inside of the catacomb, the perfidious villain had left them there to perish. The danger to which Mr. HILL and his friends were exposed, instantly alarmed them; they

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had

had scarce read the shocking tale, when looking up they beheld their inhuman guide, assisted by two others whom they had seen near the spot, closing the entrance into the vault. They were now reduc'd to the utmost distress, however, they drew their swords, and were determined to make some desperate effort to rescue themselves from a scene so truly dreadful. With this resolution, they were groping about at random in the dark, when they were startled at the groans of some one seemingly in the agonies of death; they attended to the dismal sound, and at length, by means of a glimmering light from the top of the catacomb, they saw a man just murdered; and a little beyond they discovered his inhuman murderers, flying with the utmost precipitation. They pursued them immediately, and though they were not
able

able to come up with them, they however had the good fortune to reach the opening through which these wretches escaped out of the cavern, before they had time to roll the stone on the top of it. Thus Mr. HILL and his friends were by a miracle saved.

It is unnecessary to trouble the Reader with a comment on this memorable story ; it will, without doubt, be always uppermost in the mind of the Oriental Traveller, and while he is impressed with horror at the baseness and cruelty of the transaction, it will, at the same time, quicken his own caution, and be the best guide to his conduct.

P R E F A C E

able to come up with them, they have
ever had the good fortune to reach the
opening through which these writers
escaped out of the cage, before they
had time to tell the tale on the top
edit. I trust Mr. Linn and his friends
were by a miracle saved.

It is unnecessary to trouble the
Reader with a comment on this im-
mortal story; it will without doubt
be always uppermost in the mind of
the Oriental Traveller, and while he
is impressed with honor at the tale,
its and simplicity of the translation, it
will, at the same time, quicken his
own caution, and be the best guide to
his conduct.

A JOURN

A
JOURNAL,

KEPT ON A

Journey from BASSORA, &c.

Thursday, March 10, 1779.

AT four in the afternoon, on Thursday the 10th of March, 1779, the AUTHOR, in company with four other English gentlemen, departed from Bassora in two small boats, called mussooks; another small boat being also with us, on board of which were Mr. H. Burford and Mr. Borell de Bourg, a Frenchman. These gentlemen intending to separate from us at the first Place we halted, were not considered of our party. We laid in provisions, consisting of tongues, hams, cheeses, liquors, and other necessaries, and were attended by three servants,

B

an

an European, an Armenian, belonging to Baf-
 fora, (our Linguist) named Risha, and ~~the~~^a ser-
 vant belonging to Mr. Abott, of Aleppo, who
 was returning to his master. Our destination
 in these boats was to Corna, to which place we
 were tracked up a very pleasant river, both sides
 of which were beautified with fine rows of
 date trees. The whole country affords a fine
 appearance. About ten o'clock on Friday night
 we reached Corna, and on presenting a Letter
 from Mr. Latouche to the governor, were very
 civilly received by him.—A dispute happened
 here, between the Frenchman and our linguist,
 in consequence of the former having struck the
 latter, in the presence of Hatem Aga, the gover-
 nor, saying he had been interrupted in his speech
 by him. The linguist complained to the gover-
 nor, who threatened to have punished De Bourg
 for a breach of their laws, but out of respect to
 Mr. Latouche, he passed it over, and we, with
 difficulty, prevailed on the linguist to forget it.
 The governor insisted on our retiring with him
 to his house, and kept us up drinking with him
 the greatest part of the night. We here took
 other boats.

Saturday, March 12,

We spent at this place, shifting our things out
 of

of the boats, and making other preparations for our journey; after which we took the opportunity of viewing the situation of the place, which is built on a point of land between the Tygris and Euphrates, the eastern side being washed by the Tygris, and the south-western by the Euphrates, which form the Shât-ul-Arab,* which runs down to Bassora, from whence this place is distant about 70 miles. The town appears to have been very populous, fortified by two mud walls, and two ditches. At present it is quite in ruins, and the number of its inhabitants does not exceed 500 persons. From the walls of the town we had a very fine view

of the desert. Having hired a large boat for eight tomauns† and ten piasters,§ to carry us

B 2

up

* Ancient tradition affirms this place to have been the Seat of Paradise, and to which a celebrated author, after describing the diversity of opinions which have prevailed concerning the situation of the terrestrial Paradise, seems to give this the preference, by the following observation:—"The third Hypothesis, which appears the most probable, places Eden upon the united stream of the Tygris and Euphrates, called by the Arabs Shât-ul-Arab, that is, the River of the Arabs, which begins two days journey from Bassora, and about five leagues below divides again into two chanel, that empt themselves into the Persian Gulph."—See Thompson's Travels through Turkey, &c.

† A tomaun is valued at about 3l. 6s. 8d. sterling.

§ A piaster is a base silver coin, value 2s. 3d. sterling.

up to Lemloon, a place about six days journey up the river, all our baggage, &c. was removed into it, and every thing got in readiness for our departure in the morning.

Sunday, March 13.

AT ten o'clock in the morning we embark'd on board the boats, the governor of Corna accompanying us in a small one, in compliment to Mr. Latouche, until we arrived at the residence of the sheick* of the Montafick Arabs, to whose further protection we were recommended by our friends at Bassora. On the point of embarkation we were put to some inconvenience for want of money to pay the boat people; our linguist had deceived us, and the people refused to proceed until we had paid them, objecting to our bills on Mr. Latouche for the money; at length the linguist, by leaving a couple of shawls† as a security, quieted them in some measure, and they suffered us to proceed. About four o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at an Arab village, called Boogerbut, half a day's journey from Corna. This place we might

* A prince, or chief of a tribe.

† A wrapper or sash, made of the hair of the goat of Thibet, much worn by Asiatics.

might easily have avoided, had not our careful friend the governor alter'd his intention of going on with us; he proposed to leave us here, procuring a sciad* to go on with us to sheik Tamar's residence. Shortly after our arrival at this place a small boat came in from Corna, which brought the owner of our boat, who had followed us with the shawls, being determined to have his money before we proceeded further; this put us to some inconvenience, but fortunately Mr. Abbot's man having some cash, by his assistance we were enabled to make up the amount. We were obliged to remain here all night, as the sciad who was to accompany us sent us word he could not ~~be~~^{be} ready before the morning. The people hereabouts behaved very civil, never offering to molest us.—From what has happened to us this Day, it is needless to remark how necessary it is to be provided with money, and not trust, as we did, to our linguist, as there was no credit to be had.

Monday, March 14.

ABOUT nine o'clock in the morning, left this village, the governor and sciad accompanying us;

B 3

about

* Sciads are those who pretend to be descended from Mahomet, on which account they command great respect: They are likewise a sort of lay priests.

about ten we halted, when Hatem Aga, governor of Corna, took his leave of us, taking under his care a little boy belonging to one of the party, who was too ill to proceed, and was therefore obliged to return to Bassora, in order to be returned to India by the first opportunity. Before the governor's departure, he gave us to understand, it would be necessary to make a small present to the sciad, on our safe arrival at Tamar's residence. In about half an hour we proceeded on again, and were soon after stopped by a man, who informed us, that sheick Mahannah, uncle to sheick Tamar, was arrived at Boogerbut, on an embassy to Bassora, and had sent him for any present* we might have for sheick Tamar; but we, knowing the man belonged to Hatem Aga, and recollecting that de Bourg had told him we had a present for Tamar, were apprehensive it was a scheme of his, to get it from us, and accordingly told him we would not deliver it to any one but the proper person, and if they kept detaining us in this manner, we should be under the necessity of returning

* It is absolutely necessary for all travellers who pass this route, and who mean to apply to the sheick of the Montaficks for protection, to be prepared with a shawl, a benish, and some other trifling articles, as a present for him.

turning back. On hearing this, he went quietly away, and suffered us to proceed. We passed several Arab villages, and two small Arab encampments, and arrived about sun-set at the village of Baharan, where we put up for the night. Here the sciad came up with us, having staid behind with the governor.

Tuesday, March 15.

AT day-break we left Baharan, to proceed on our journey, the sciad accompanying us. We took a walk along the banks of the river, and found a great deal of arable land, and the people very busy cultivating it. Sheep and kids were to be got in great plenty in this part, and at very reasonable rates.—About ten o'clock we passed a very pleasant village, called Cherry Luxannie, and having proceeded by several other villages, arrived about one o'clock at Abadda, the present residence of sheick Tamar. We then sent our linguist to acquaint him of our arrival, and in about half an hour were admitted to an audience. We found the sheick in a kind of Durbar* made of reeds, surrounded by his principal people, sciads, &c. he received us in a very friendly and polite manner. The sheick appears

B 4

to

* An hall of audience.

to be about thirty-four years of age, has a good countenance, and seems to be a very sensible man; he is the chief of the Montafick Arabs, and is possessed of a vast tract of country within land. He was very particular in his enquiries respecting the strength of Bassóra, and from some hints he dropt, he gave us reason to believe his sending an embassy thither, was entirely a political scheme, and that his intention is to endeavour to retake the place for the Turks, which, in my opinion might be very easily accomplished. Having staid with him about an hour, we took our leave, and he furnished us with guides to conduct us as far as Semowha, which belongs to another Arab tribe, with whom he was at enmity. Before our departure from the sheick, he particularly recommended us to go over land from Semowha, as he was very apprehensive of our being plundered should we proceed up the river. About four o'clock we left this place, and pursued our journey, passing several very pleasant villages, and about twelve lay to for the night.

Wednesday, March 16.

ABOUT day light we departed from a place made use of as a custom-house, called Gulla-
ween,

ween, and did not stop till nine o'clock, when we came to a fortified town of the Turks, now in ruins: It has the appearance of a handsome, strong place, and good houses are yet to be seen in it, notwithstanding its decayed state; its extent seems to be about three quarters of a mile, and is named Coote. Shortly after we passed another, but it had no appearance, or the least vestige of a house, only a wall, which might have been thrown up to secure the Turks, who formerly possessed these places, against any sudden attack of the Montaficks, but latterly they permitted the people to inhabit these towns, and to be governed by a Turk. On the breaking out of the plague, and the Persian war, these places were evacuated. About a mile above the last place, we saw a very large number of jars, which had been made here, and are the only vessels these people use in preserving their grain. But every thing wore the face of a violent and destructive war, as the Persians are not used to extend mercy to a human creature; for which cruelty they have since severely paid. In the month of October last a battle was fought in a field called Argia, at which we expected in three hours to halt, and to learn the reason of the slaughter there committed by means of the
rashness

rashness of Ali Mahomed Cawn, the Persian General; probably Providence permitted it as a chastisement to such cruel and unmerciful enemies as the Persians are, who rather seemed desirous of extirpating the whole race of Arabs out of the country, than of convincing them of their superiority, and then offer peace, the only method to be observed to a set of men who command all the inland country up to Semowha, and over the desert to Aleppo, by which means the people in possession of Bassora, must be on terms with the Montaficks, if they propose carrying on any trade; instead of which conduct they have taken such measures as have now so highly exasperated these men, that they were then, and are still determined to extirpate the Persians out of Bassora and Arabia.

At two in the afternoon we reached the plains of Argia, which were as extensive as the eye could carry, but an arm of the Euphrates makes a half circle of three miles in land, on the upper banks of which the Montifick Arabs and Persians fought, the former consisting entirely of horse, to the number of eight thousand; the Persians of six thousand horse, and the same number of foot, besides eighteen large gallivats.* The attack

* Small vessels of war, with a prow, mounting three or four cannon, and are rigged with a mast and a lug-sail.

attack was begun by a violent onset of the Persians, whose horses once set on full gallop, cannot without difficulty be turned ; the Arabs, on the contrary, have great management of theirs ; and who, having thrown their long darts, quickly turn'd the heads of their horses, and galloped away, which the Persians mistaking for flight, pursued with great eagerness, 'till the Arabs had led them into a swampy ground, when they faced about, and attacked their pursuers in their turn. This masterly evolution so disconcerted the Persians that they attempted an immediate retreat, which, from the nature of the ground, and the ungovernable state of their horses, they so illy effected, that three men only (and they much wounded) reached Bassora, to relate the fate of their unfortunate comrades, all of whom, that day in the field of Argia, were cut in pieces by the victorious Arabs ! The galivats, when they perceived the destruction of their army, sailed away down the river.—So very confident were the Persians of success, that they had prepared posts to cut off the heads of their prisoners, and coats for those they could bring over before the battle.

It will naturally become a question, What could induce the Arabs to put to death all their prisoners,

prisoners, and grant no quarter? To answer this it must be observed, that on a former defeat, near Bushwar, the Arabs dismissed between three and four thousands of their then prisoners, and gave them their liberty; as a recompence for which piece of generosity, those very Persians, on their route to Bassora, entered Izzabeer, a town about twelve miles from thence, and massacred every inhabitant they could find. These were subjects of sheick Tamar who thus revenged their country on its murderers; and though such conduct would degrade Europeans, yet when enemies act in this manner, and will suffer no nation they are at war with to survive a defeat, it must be acknowledged, if this treatment of their prisoners be not praise-worthy, self-preservation at least warrants it; for if these men should ever have it in their power to overcome the Arabs, no mercy shewn by the latter would be remembered, for gratitude and generosity are two virtues unknown among eastern nations; and was it not for fear, and love of ease, predominating over every other virtue, the eastern people would be most dreadful enemies to Europeans, to whom they have a great aversion, on account of the difference of religion, they being infidels. This I mention as applicable

applicable to the generality of the people, but their sheicks are men of different ideas; yet as their sciads commonly bias the whole nation, they are very great bigots and enthusiasts.— We walked over the field of battle, and found it entirely strewed over with the bones of the slaughtered Persians. What appears surprising is, that the Arabs lost only twenty men in this engagement.

We left this dreadful scene at four o'clock, and about five passed a very handsome town, formerly belonging to the Turks, called Argia; this town is now in ruins, though some good buildings are yet to be seen. It was latterly inhabited by the Montasick Arabs, who, on the troubles breaking out with the Persians, were obliged to desert it. It is about two miles in circumference, and surrounded by a number of large, beautiful gardens, which, for want of cultivation, have lost much of their former elegance.—About nine o'clock this evening, we lay to for the night, as the trackers refused to go on; we were, therefore, obliged to comply, though much against our inclinations.

Thursday, March 17.

At day-break we departed from our halting place, and about ten o'clock arrived at a custom-house

house belonging to sheick Tamar, called Bazool, just before we reached it, the man sent with us by Tamar, an under sheick of 300 men, demanded a gratuity from us for his trouble, at the same time giving us to understand the risk we should run in not having him or some of his people with us. On our pleading inability to comply with his request, he pointed to a shawl and a benish* and demanded them, which we refused to give him. He then told us he should leave us! On our considering the danger we were exposed to by proceeding on without those people, we came to the determination, (by advice of our linguist, who had travelled this way before, and was well acquainted with the danger we should run,) to comply with his demand, on our safe arrival at Semowha; especially as the fellow had declared to one of the party, in private, that it was in his power to exert himself so effectually, against the Ghaussall Arabs, as to prevent our being molested; but, in case of our refusal, he would remain silent, and suffer us to run the risk of being plundered. We, therefore, as I have observed before, thought it best to agree to the fellow's request, though at the

* The outer garment, or coat of the Turkish dress.

the same time determined to acquaint Mr. Latouche with his extortion ; and, I have reason to hope, on his application to sheick Tamar, the rascal will not only be made to refund, but will meet with a severe rebuff. Just as we had settled this business, we reached the custom-house, when a doubt arose whether we should procure any armed men ; but that point was soon settled, by our telling the head man we would stay there till we could receive an answer from Tamar. This threat had the same good effect on this occasion, as we experienced, from a similar conduct on a former one. At this place we found Messrs. Burford and de Bourg, who had been here all night. After waiting little more than an hour, we departed from hence, in company with the above gentlemen. A boy belonging to one of the party, throwing some wood from the shore into the boat, a piece by accident, struck the sheick, who was with us, he immediately flew into so violent a passion, that he drew his creese, or dagger, and 'twas with great difficulty he could be pacified by the linguist. So tenacious are these men of the least slight, that a blow is hardly ever forgiven! —The country from this place appears quite a desert, for not a village, or any human creature

is to be seen; the banks on both sides of the river are entirely covered with a kind of heath, or furze, called jungle. About four this afternoon we halted for some boats, going to Semowha, which joined us about an hour afterwards. This delay was much against our will, but the people insisting on it, we were obliged to acquiesce. At five o'clock we again moved on, in company with eight other boats, and a little after sun-set we came to for the night.

Friday, March 18.

ABOUT three o'clock this morning, the wind proving fair, we got up our sail, and proceeded on till about eight, when we halted for the people to dress their victuals. This country, for miles round, appears covered with young cypress trees; but not an inhabitant was to be met with in those parts. Having waited near an hour, we again put forward, and about four in the afternoon passed a very pleasant grove of trees, in the midst of which was one of their principal sheicks tombs. About sun-set we sailed by the mouth of the river which leads to a large Arab village called Grain, up to which it is a day's journey; it belongs to the Montaficks. At seven o'clock we halted for the night.

Saturday,

Saturday, March 19.

AT day-light we proceeded; it had rained from midnight, and still continued so to do, which incommoded us a good deal, but had not entirely wetted our boat, the only conveniency we had for sitting and sleeping in. We had been much told of wild Arabs infesting this river from Bazool, but so far from it, at least at this time of the year, that we did not perceive a living creature near it. This morning the brushwood on the banks of the river wore the appearance of spring, though before nothing but dreary winter had shewn itself. We expect to be at Semowha this evening.—For some days past we have observed our linguist, who agreed to act in capacity of a servant to us, assume such conduct as indicated his dislike, before so many strange Arabs, to appear lower than a linguist, and to put on airs of insolence; I would therefore advise every one who takes a linguist, to give him to understand, that he is to do and be every thing they may have occasion for, as this very man had acted both as a linguist and a menial servant to one of our party while in India! This remark may appear rather extraordinary, when it is known we had other servants, but it will be found by travellers, that the linguist has

it much in his power to make their journey easy and agreeable, or quite the reverse; and by his conduct to cause them to be respected by those who accompany them, or whom they may meet with on the road.—At four o'clock in the afternoon, we came in sight of Semowha, and shortly after landed. We sent our shaick with Tamar's letter, who, finding the shaick of the Funtall Arabs at this place, made application to him in our behalf, for advice as to the route we should take from hence; he very honestly advised us not to proceed up the river, or by land on asses, but to take some small musflocks, which would in a day and a night carry us to the residence of shaick Amed Ben Ahmood, the shaick of the Ghaffaul Arabs, to whom we had a letter of protection from Saddoo Cawn, the Persian governor of Bassora, which when shewn to the governor of this place, he kissed, and made obeisance to; saying it was a sufficient recommendation in every respect to the shaick who commands the Semowha people. The Funtall shaick, thinking we might be dubious of his scheme, said he would take all the risk on his head, till our meeting with shaick Ahmood, which sufficiently satisfied us, both as to the security and his good intentions; he is a particular friend to
Tamar,

Tamar, through his regard for whom, we alone attribute his acting so genteelly by us, for he said he had never before seen an European; he also informed our linguist he would send his own people to protect us. — We learnt that Burford and De Bourg had arrived a little before us, and were determined to face every danger, by proceeding on their journey by land, on asses, which mode of travelling we had been cautioned against, as before mentioned, on account of the Arabs inhabiting that part of the country through which we must pass being at war; men might pass, but not with any kind of baggage, or with any probability of keeping their clothes. The governor of this place advised us to stay till he had wrote to acquaint shaick Ahmood of our arrival, and of his having a letter for him from Saddoo Cawn, and he was confident he would send his son, with two hundred men, to escort us by land, or up the river; but our linguist, considering such a measure would be attended with great expence, in presents to the son, and to some of the officers, declined it, as too troublesome. The Governor then ordered a room to be cleared for us, in a good house, into which we removed all our baggage out of the boat, which was become very unfit to continue in any longer.

Sunday, March 20.

THIS morning we were informed by our linguist that the Funtall shaick had begun to waver in his opinion relative to the route he proposed yesterday ; he seemed to think now our baggage would endanger us on the road ; we, therefore, set about reducing it as much as possible. While we were at dinner, a man, who called himself custom-master, came and demanded from the linguist twenty Turkish checkeens,* for duty on our baggage, particularly our liquors, which sum he acquainted us we must either pay, or wait till he had received orders from shaick Ahmed Ben Amood. This we absolutely refused to do, and immediately made application to the governor, who desired us to pay no attention to the demand. At the same time he advised us to give him Sadoo Cawn's letter, to be forwarded to shaick Ahmood, telling us it would be imprudent to proceed till we had his answer. We offered to send back our baggage to Bassora, provided we could go on safely without it, but now were told it would not be of the least service, as these banditti would not only strip us, but would likewise assassinate us, to prevent any

* A Turkish checkeen is a gold coin, valued at about three piasters and a half.

information being given against them; we, therefore, resolved to dispatch a man to the shaick with the letter, and to wait with patience for his answer, which we were informed would arrive in about four days. In the evening it began to rain very heavily, and continued so to do for three hours, which put us to some inconvenience; as the terrace of the house we inhabited was made solely of mud, the rain came pouring down, in some places, like a sluice.

Monday, March 21.

THIS morning the shaick sent with us by Tamar, left us to return to his master. We gave him a coarse shawl, worth about fifty piasters; he then brought us a letter, soliciting us to sign it as a voucher of his good conduct towards us, which we refused to comply with, though we wrote to Tamar, returning him thanks for his protection. Our linguist informed us the boat we came here in departed yesterday, without giving us any intimation of their design. The rascals cheated us, they being hired to carry us to Lemloon, a place two days journey from hence. On enquiry we were told Burford and De Bourg were likely to be detained as long as ourselves, the governor not chusing to let them

depart till he heard from the shaick. This delay must be very vexatious to these gentlemen, who appeared so anxious to get forward. About four o'clock in the afternoon we took a walk round the town, which is about two miles in circumference, fortified by a mud wall of no great strength, but as the sole use of fortifications here is to prevent a sudden surprise from a body of horse, these walls answer the purpose extremely well. On our return home, we met the people belonging to our boat, whom we were told in the morning had given us the slip. This we thought was a scheme of the custom-master, who removed the boat to prevent us sending back our things to Bassora. We were now perfectly convinced, notwithstanding what we had heard this morning, that Burford and De Bourg left this place last night. On this we sent our linguist to the governor, to remonstrate with him on his conduct towards us:— The answer he brought back was, “ Those
 “ gentlemen had changed their good clothes
 “ for ragged ones, and had left all their baggage
 “ behind, taking all risk upon themselves, as
 “ he was apprehensive, without Ahmood's permission, any accident happening to them,
 “ might injure him, and he had every reason
 “ to

“ to believe there was danger, but if we chose
 “ to take the risk, and give him a letter certifying
 “ we did so, and free him from sending us
 “ away without Ahmood’s protection, we might
 “ likewise depart; but he advised us against it,
 “ for the reasons above.” These reasons quieted
 our apprehensions, and we resolved to wait
 for an answer from shaick Ahmood, before we
 took any further steps; thinking it more prudent
 to tarry a few days and proceed in safety,
 than to encounter danger and difficulties, when
 we had no such pressing business as to require
 it. The governor, about ten o’clock at night,
 paid us a visit, and entered freely into a conversation
 relative to the customs of Europe, which he
 seemed well pleased with. He requested
 some physic of us, which we promised to give
 him.

Tuesday, March 23.

JUST after we had dined, our linguist acquainted
 us, that the governor had sent to invite
 us to his house, to spend an hour or two; we
 accordingly went, and found with him three
 people of a very mean appearance, whom we
 imagined to be servants. There seemed to be
 little dignity observed here, as the commonest
 fellow is allowed to sit in the great men’s pre-

fence, and enter into discourse in as free a manner as themselves. A good looking man, a sciad, coming in soon after, began a private conversation with our linguist respecting us, and dropped hints that there was not the danger we were given to apprehend, and if we could procure a man, present, who belonged to Ahmood, to conduct us, he would answer for our safety. On our return home, it was agreed to send our linguist to the governor, to demand whether we could proceed with safety on the proposal we then made? The result of which was, that this obliging, friendly, careful governor, was nothing less than a true Arab, and had detained us because we had omitted to make him a present. Though much hurt at these proceedings, we thought it better to comply, and get clear of this villainous place as soon as possible; we therefore sent him a benish, a turban, a piece of cutanese, and 14 pounds of coffee. Thanks were returned for this mighty present, and we were informed that boats would be in readiness for our departure the next day. This piece of Arab craftiness will enforce what I have previously observed, regarding the necessity of gentlemen providing themselves with things as presents to satisfy these rapacious villains, without which, I am well

well convinced, from experience, nothing is to be done. This evening a pair of boots belonging to one of our servants were stolen; the governor, by some means, detected the thief, severely bastinadoed him, and sent back the boots, desiring us to order our servants to be upon their guard, as he was very apprehensive we should be robbed. I mention this to shew what a thieving place this is, and how necessary it will be for gentlemen coming here to be always upon the watch.

Wednesday, March 24.

OUR linguist acquainted us this morning, that the governor had received a letter from Bassora last night, informing him of the death of Carim Cawn, the regent of Persia, at Shyrass. In consequence of which Saddoo Cawn, and all the Persians, had left Bassora, to repair as fast as possible to that place, he being one of the competitors for the regency. This accident, it was imagined, would create great disturbances in the Persian empire, and will give the Arabs an opportunity of accomplishing their scheme of recovering Bassora, without blood-shed, and I make not the least doubt, should the news prove true, shaick Tamar has before this taken the advantage of it.—We were promised boats to convey

convey us from hence to Hilla, for which we were to pay twenty-four zurmaboobs.* I was fearful we should again be put to some inconvenience for want of money; we were told, a day or two ago, by our linguist, that a merchant here would advance us what we wanted, for our bills on Mr. Latouche; he afterwards informed us, the man would not do it. This fellow carried on some trade, consisting of shawls, &c. and I am inclined to believe him rascal enough to persuade us of the impossibility of getting money, that we might be obliged to purchase his things, (to give the people in lieu of-cash) at whatever price he pleased to set on them. It has very plainly appeared to me, throughout the journey, thus far, that he endeavoured to fleece us as much as possible. These men are very necessary, and there is no doing without them, but I would advise every friend of mine not to put too much confidence in them, as I am persuaded they permit the country people to make the most of you as you pass along. I have this suspicion from the dirty, under-hand dealing of the one we employed. — In the afternoon we were told, that

* Equal to seventy-two piasters.

the boats could not be got in readiness before the next morning, and we had great reason to fear, notwithstanding our presents, that the honest governor was still playing us some of his tricks. Several of the principal towns people advised us by no means to think of going the way proposed, as we should certainly be plundered. The sciad who had forwarded Burford and De Bourg came to our linguist, and desired him to persuade us from taking a step of the kind, giving as a reason, that the Arabs all the way up the river were well informed of our coming, and were lying in wait for us, in expectation of meeting with great spoil. He said, had we divested ourselves of our baggage, he would likewise have sent us on without the least hazard, at the time the other gentlemen went. The only method he could now advise, with any degree of safety, was to return to Bazool, (giving out that we were going back to Bassora) and on our arrival there to dispatch a man to shaick Tamar, to procure us camels to proceed to Mushat. On hearing this, we began to think we were in a most disagreeable situation, and consulted on what was best to be done. It was proposed by some of the party, to change our clothes for the meanest we could get, to send
back

back our baggage, and go forward on asses. This proposition was rejected. Soon after this, our linguist, whom we had sent out on enquiries, came in, and acquainted us, that a sciad from Bassora had offered to conduct us safe to Hilla, free of all other expences, for 200 piasters, to be paid on our safe arrival there. This, though rather exorbitant, we gladly embraced, and now entertained hopes of soon getting clear of this infamous place, when we were visited by our careful friend the governor, and the sciad who had made the proposal coming in, told him of his offer, but this conscientious gentleman put a stop to it, which we have since heard was owing to the sciad's refusing to make him some acknowledgment. No money being to be procured under 20 *per cent.* discount, we were reduced to the greatest difficulty, till on lessening our baggage to one small trunk each, which we found indispensably necessary, one of the party luckily found eighty-two piastras, which were fully sufficient for the occasion. Soon after we were again visited by the custom-master, renewing his demand of customs, and on our refusing to comply with it, he very insolently shook his spear at us, telling us, he would have his customs in spite of our teeth. Our linguist
was

was sent to the governor with a complaint of this behaviour; he desired us to pay no attention to it. About seven o'clock this evening the sciad came to us, and advanced his price to 250 piasters, which we consented to give him, and entered into a written agreement, by which he bound himself to conduct us to Mushat, and then return to Semowha and forward our servants and baggage. We proposed setting out the next night, accompanied by Isha, the father of our linguist, who goes with us as an interpreter, to assist us as much as possible, being well acquainted with the customs of the country we were to travel through. The honest governor, on paying us another visit, took a fancy to a turban, which we gave him. I mention this as a convincing proof that these gentry are never satisfied.—Semowha, being an Arab town, has nothing in it worthy notice, excepting the women, who are beautiful in their persons, and of a much fairer complexion than any I have before seen; and from what little observation I was able to make, I am inclined to think they would be free of their favours, did not the amazing jealousy of their husbands, and the severe laws in force as a punishment for adultery prevent them. They seem, however, very docile, and are good house-wives.

Thursday,

[30]

Thursday, March 25.

ABOUT eight o'clock in the evening we left this extorting place, attended by Isha and Hussian Ally, the sciad, who was to conduct us to Mushat, from whence he is to return to Semowha in three days, to conduct our servants and baggage safe to us. We embarked in a small musslook, and tracked and paddled at an amazing rate all night.

Friday, March 26.

EARLY this morning arrived at an Arab encampment, called Shut Ghassaul, of the tribe of Ghassauls. About nine o'clock our sciad permitted us to go on shore, and took us to a kind of fowl-house, where we remained all day and night; our appartments were rather inconvenient, but we were treated with great civility, and met with tolerable fare. Here we were to shift musslooks.

Saturday, March 27.

BEFORE break of day we sailed from hence in another musslook, and by ten o'clock arrived at Sebya, another Ghassaul town, commanded by a shaick. Sebya is situated on the border of a very fine creek, going up which Isha had a dispute with our sciad, which terminated in his resolving

resolving to proceed no further with us, though he never thought proper to give us any notice of his intention. We continued here all day, proposing to quit this place sometime in the night, but we were much mistaken, owing to the quarrel between the sciad and Isha, who had published to the Ghassauls who we were, and to what place bound, which the sciad would have wished to have kept them in ignorance of. The only thing worth remarking here is the habitations, which are long arched huts, made of reeds, curiously seamed, or tied together; the one we occupied was built on pillars of reeds and sticks; every other one being formed entirely of reeds; their covering are mats made of reeds; the rooms contain twenty pillars, each distant from the other about a yard; the arches of reeds and rafters are laid immediately on the heads of the pillars; the floors are laid with mats, which, when any person goes in to sit, drink coffee, and smoke their pipes or nargils, have carpets spread on them, and a hole made near the entrance for the fire, at which the coffee, according to the Arab custom, was roasted and pounded, and then boiled; from this fire they light their pipes. The shaick of this place behaved very civilly, but no more so than is usual
to

to any stranger under their roofs; yet he made use of many arguments to dissuade us from proceeding, which we at length perceived to arise from a desire to put money into some of his friends pockets, and likewise from a wish to advantage himself. He wanted us to take fifteen armed men, and pay them 300 piasters, but as the sciad had undertaken to carry us and our baggage for a certain sum, free of every other charge, as far as to Hilla, and seeing him much averse to the proposal, we refused the shaick's offer; this demand was so extravagant, for one night's labour, that, had not the sciad been with us, we should not have complied with it.

Sunday, March. 28.

ABOUT two o'clock this morning we got into a musslook, to go, as we supposed to Dewannee Huskar, and from thence to Mushat, but soon perceived we were taking a bye way into another part of Sebya, where we were to wait till night, for an opportunity to slip away by water. Accordingly we got into a small hut, where we remained till dusk, when two ill-looking Arabs came in and sat with us. In a short time our sciad, with the master of the house, went out, to concert measures for our departure, and we

gave

gave out that we intended to proceed by land. The Arabs now eyed us with particular attention, and asked many impertinent questions, which we did not deign to answer as they wished, for, by some significant gestures, they seemed highly displeased; they got up, and one, who had a musquet in his hand, had but just got out of the door, when he squatted on his haunches, and presented the piece at us. From the nature of the place, we were sensible such behaviour could not be resented, we therefore submitted to the insult; the man, however, did not fire. A gentleman of our party was much agitated, and could not refrain from calling out for assistance, for the impropriety of which we severely rebuked him. This the other Arab observing seemed inclined to take advantage of, by clapping his hand on his sword; but a by-stander, stopping him, by dint of persuasion prevailed on them to quit the hut; at which time our sciad returned, from whom we learned, that he had likewise spoken to them, and that all was quiet again. Shortly after we had eaten supper, eight armed Arabs came in, took up our little baggage, and conveyed it into two musfooks, on board of which we also got, and, at an amazing rate, passed an exten-

five towns built on each side of the river; and were tracked and paddled during the night, at least, at the rate of five miles an hour, passing sometimes through creeks much obstructed by reeds and weeds, at other times on the river, by which means we happily escaped many of the thieves that infest those parts, and avoided Lemloon, where they generally resort. This route I would wish to recommend to all travellers, in preference to the nearer one by Lemloon, those parts being infested by a lawless banditti, who subsist chiefly by plunder and rapine. Those that travel this way, and should they see these few remarks I have made, and think them worth remembering, I would advise, on their arrival at Semowha, to apply immediately to some sciad, to forward them in a musslook, supposing them to be encumbered with but little baggage, and only two servants, through the way before directed; by which they will escape, in all probability, the robbers, and arrive in three days at Hilla, they will likewise avoid the impositions of the governor of Semowha, and his custom-master: But, whenever you propose to put yourself under the direction of any sciad, at Semowha, it must be done without the privity of the governor, or any one else; and if you bind

bind the sciad, under his hand, to conduct you, every trust may be reposed in him; and in every transaction with any Arab, it is absolutely necessary to bind him under a written obligation. The sciad who conducted us, named Hussan Ally, a resident of Mushat, is very capable of conducting gentlemen this route, but care must be taken to watch him, as he is a keen, cunning, necessitous man, and bears not the best of characters. He acted basely by us, making use of every stratagem to deceive and plunder us, even under our sight, always using some plausible though vague pretence. I believe none of the Sciads relish a continued journey; I mean a journey without resting; for such impediments, merely from laziness, did our sciad make, that except to those who have travelled in India, it would be hardly possible to credit them; but, above all, I would advise, that the attempts to terrify you by the danger from thieves, and in particular the Ghassaul Arabs, should not be attended to. Every man should be well armed, with pistols and fuzees, and I will engage that a party of five or six will surmount every danger, if their schemes of departure be taken with circumspection; for as to the cutting of throats, of which you will be told by almost every one,

I am very much inclined to believe a mere farce, and mentioned with no other motive than to induce you to take some of their people with you, by which means, if they succeed, you effectually serve their ends; and, what is infinitely worse, make them imagine you afraid, of which they will advantage themselves more ways than one. Though I think if a resistance is made, and you are over-powered, your life is in danger, yet, as six armed men will generally be a match for those you may meet either by land or by water in your journey towards Bagdad, little is to be apprehended; but you must not look for any quarter, if you either kill or wound an Arab.

Monday, March 28,

WE continued tracking, from day-light till about nine o'clock in the morning, when we reached Dewanne Huskar, a small town under the Turkish dominions, but greatly in ruins, governed by Ahmed Aga, a very civil and polite Turk, whose son, Soloman Aga, is deputy governor. The town is pleasantly situated, close to the banks of the river, enclosed by a mud wall, of no great strength, though sufficiently strong to serve the purposes for which it was designed,

designed, to prevent a surprize from the Arabs, and to keep out horse, which are the only troops of any consequence in those parts. The circumjacent country is a vast plain, almost totally uncultivated, but the little that is cultivated convinces me that its soil is exceedingly fertile. All the way since our entering Bassora river, or otherwise Shut-ul-Arab, I observed the land to be very fine, the mould rich, and not a single stone ~~to~~ ^{to} be found, except here and there a few pebbles on the surface. Our sciad, this night, proposed returning to Semowha, to bring up our servants and baggage, and put us under the protection and care of Solomon Aga, who promised to conduct us to Mushat; we agreed to it, as we thought it would expedite our journey, and found there was no risk attending it.

Tuesday, March 29.

THIS whole day we tarried at Dewannee Huskar, without meeting with any thing worth relating; the customs and manners of the Turks being too well known to need a description here.

Wednesday, March 30.

IN the morning, about half past eight o'clock, though we had been previously informed horses

were to be provided for us, yet we were compelled to rest satisfied with poor, diminutive asses, without either saddles or bridles, having nothing but packs on. When I reflected on the pride of the Turks, and that they seldom suffer Christians to ride horses, I was somewhat reconciled, though still considered it as a great insult. We had not proceeded above an hour before we were met by five horses, little better than asses, but, as they were certainly of the horse species, we were better satisfied, though bad was then our lot, for they had no better accoutrements than the asses, and we were obliged to ride double.—I forgot to mention that we crossed the river to go to Mushat, about half a mile up, and travelled due west; the course of the river to Dewannee Huskar, in general winds to the westward. All this day we were on horseback, and arrived, about eight o'clock at night, at Mushat, which, by moon-light, had the appearance of a tolerable good town, though in particular places it bore evident marks of ruin and destruction. We hoped here, at least, to have found a good house, civil and hospitable treatment, with every assistance we could require. Instead of which, to our astonishment, we perceived that it was with difficulty Solomon

Aga

Aga could gain us admittance into Hussian's brother's house, and even there we could get nothing but aps (a kind of bread) for supper, which, with a little butter we brought from Dewannee Huskar, was all we eat that day.

Thursday, March 31.

MUSHAT is made of some consequence from a very fine mosque erected by Kouli Tamas Khann, in honour of Imaun Ally. It has a fine dome, and two minarets or monuments most admirably gilt, which are great ornaments to the town.—What we took for gilding, I have since heard are entire plates of gold; the minarets and dome stand on an eminence, and are to be seen at the distance of twenty miles. Within the mosque are said to be deposited immense treasures of precious stones; during the disputes between the Persians and the Turks, the former were always permitted to come and worship at the mosque. The inhabitants are chiefly Arabs, governed by a Turk, of which sect are very few in this place.—On the 4th of April, being Easter-day, all the people for miles round the country, were assembled at the mosque; whether this was in honour of the day, or any particular festival of their own, I could not

learn. Our situation here for three days was very disagreeable, for being continually exposed to the impertinence of the people, and having no linguist with us to explain what we wanted, it subjected us to great impositions, especially from the master of the house, a crafty Arab, and to add to our misfortunes, we had no clothes to shift ourselves, and those we had on, from the long time of wearing them, and the dirty places we had been obliged to lie in, were not entirely free from vermin. At length one of our servants arrived from Semowha, but had been robbed of his clothes, and two letters that were sent by him from our linguist, and European servant, by the Arabs. With this servant we made a little better shift.—We waited here near a week, without receiving any intelligence of our sciad, and hearing he bore but an indifferent character, we began to express some apprehensions for our servants and baggage; however, on the 6th, in the evening, he arrived from Dewannee Huskar, having sent on our servants and things, in a boat, to Hilla. He brought us some clothes, which were very acceptable, and a letter from our linguist, which convinced us that he had behaved in a most infamous manner towards us, but, as we were in a place where

no

no satisfaction could be obtained, we thought it most prudent to pass it over, at least for the present. Being heartily sick of this place, we insisted on our sciad's conducting us, the next day, on to Hilla. Having procured horses and mules, we set out about eleven o'clock, travelling over a very pleasant country, and passing on the road a number of caravans from Hilla to Mushat. At ten o'clock we halted at a caravanserai where we drank coffee, then proceeding on again, about half past three o'clock we came to a walled mosque, called Kirbilla, in which there is a caravanserai but not stopping here, we got sight of some suspicious horsemen, who crossed the road to reconnoitre us, which our sciad observing, he returned back with us to the mosque, where we staid till twelve o'clock at night, and then mounted again, and travelling forward, arrived about day-light at Hilla. We put up at a Khan,* and shortly after were met by our servants, who came by water, with our things. We were soon after visited by Ally

* A public building, consisting of warehouses, and chambers above, for the conveniency of travellers and merchants, common in Turkish countries to all comers, instead of inns; and are built, and kept in repair by charitable bequests from religious persons.

Argiava,

Argiava, the custom-master of the place, to whom we were recommended by Mr. Latouche; he furnished us with money, on a letter of credit from Mr. Marcar, (Mr. Latouche's agent at Bagdad,) in consequence of Capt. Burford's arrival at that place the 27th of March, and his having made application to him on our behalf. Hilla is a large Turkish town, built on both sides of the Euphrates, over which it has a bridge of boats; the town seems well situated for trade, but through the indolence of the Turks, and the tyrannical government exercised over them, very little is carried on; the beautiful gardens with which it is encompassed, planted with fruit trees of all kinds, afford an agreeable prospect. Plenty of excellent provisions are to be had; and some of the finest fish I ever beheld, are caught in the river.—Here we had a dispute with our rascally sciad, who was not content to take the money he had agreed with us for, but demanded 300 piaftres for his trouble. He had given away a pair of pistols belonging to me, which we insisted on deducting from his account; this caused him to behave with great insolence to us, attempting to draw his sword on us, to frighten us into a compliance with his demands, but finding these schemes would not avail,

*how durst he trust him with
pistols*

avail, he had recourse to Ally Argiava, who persuaded us for our own and nation's honour, and for the ease and convenience of travellers coming that way hereafter, it would be better to pay the fellow according to our first agreement, without any deduction, which we consenting to, he received his full amount, and was sent about his business. Having waited here two days, and sufficiently refreshed ourselves, we provided mules and asses, and early on the 9th instant crossed the river, journeying towards Bagdad. We travelled this day till about sunset, when we halted at a caravanfera, about 30 miles distant from Bagdad, here we procured provisions, such as fowls, eggs, and butter.

Sunday, April 10.

ABOUT three o'clock this morning, myself and another of the party, accompanied by a Turk, set out for Bagdad, leaving the rest to come on with the caravan. About seven o'clock we got sight of Bagdad, which, at a distance, appears like a grove of trees, we found the river Tygris had begun to swell, and had overflowed the country for some miles round, which compelled us to make so large a circuit in order to avoid it, that it was past mid-day before we reached

reached the suburbs. Here we crossed the river to enter the city, and being conducted to Mr. Marcar's house, were very hospitably received by him. The rest of our friends arrived in about two hours after us.

Monday, April 11.

THIS city (Bagdad) is not the ancient Babylon, as by some supposed; Babylon stood higher up, on the Euphrates. Near Hilla are still visible the ruins called Babel, by some supposed to have been ancient Babylon.—Bagdad is situated on the Tygris, distant from Hilla about fifty miles; the city is large and populous, and the advantage of the Tygris is so considerable, with regard to commerce, that although the climate is excessive hot, and in other respects far from being agreeable, yet its number of inhabitants are computed at ^{100,000} ~~100,000~~ but before the plague broke out there, they were supposed to be four times that number. It is governed by a bashaw, whose authority extends as far as Courdistan. The revenues would be immense was the government mild, but, instead thereof, oppression rules here with the most despotic sway! The bashaw is continually extorting money from the poor inhabitants, and none suffer

*In page 40.
The number of houses is com-
puted to 80,000*

fer more than the unfortunate Jews and Christians, many of whom are put to the most cruel tortures in order to force their property from them. This series of tyranny and oppression has almost entirely drove them out of the city, in consequence of which the trade must suffer very considerably, they being generally the principal merchants in the place. The gentleman at whose house we resided, a few days ago experienced this infamous treatment: His schroff, or banker, a Jew, was imprisoned by the bashaw, and after being severely bastinado'd, 4500 piastres were taken from him, and placed to the account of Mr. Marcar, our friend. The man was then released, but, on revisiting his house, he found it had been broken open during his confinement, and goods to the amount of 500 rupees taken out of his apartments. These shameful oppressions being daily practiced in different parts of the city, Mr. Marcar has determined to leave the place as soon as he can settle his affairs; which will be a great loss to Englishmen travelling in these parts, as he is a very obliging, amiable man, and much attached to the English nation. The soil of this country is the most fertile I ever met with; European fruits of all kinds are to be had in
their

*there must be more inhabitants
than there are 17000*

proper seasons, which are, the months of June, July, and August; and vegetables of all sorts are here in their greatest perfection.—About two days journey from hence, up the Tygris, I am credibly informed, groves of orange and pomegranate trees are very plentifully intermixed, which render it a most delightful retreat. The seasons, I am told, correspond with those of Europe, except in the months of June, July, and August, the weather then is so extremely hot, as to oblige the inhabitants to live, for these months, in subterraneous apartments, which are arched over, to admit the freer circulation of the air. The houses are generally large, built of brick and cement, and are arched over; many of the windows are made of elegant Venetian glass; the ceilings are mostly ornamented with a kind of chequered work, which has generally a noble appearance; most of the houses have a court-yard before them, in the middle of which is a little plantation of orange trees, &c. that has a very pleasing effect. The soil, which would produce not only every conveniency in life, but almost every luxury, is, through the natural indolence of the Turks, and the many faults in the government of the country, in a great measure, uncultivated and neglected.

lected. The revenues are computed at 125 lacks of piaſtres, or 1,562,500l. ſterling, but a quarter part of this is not collected, owing to the ſlothfulneſs of the Turks, who ſuffer the Arabs to plunder them of the remainder. This, in ſome meaſure, accounts for the cruelties and extortions that are continually practiced here. As the baſhaw lives in all the ſplendour of a ſovereign prince, and maintains a very large army, ~~he~~ he could not be able to defray his expences, was he not to have recourſe to oppreſſion and injuſtice; and he, by his extenſive power, acting almoſt independent of the Porte, only acknowledging it to bring in a balance from thence yearly in his favour; theſe circumſtances conſidered, his arbitrary proceedings are not much to be wondered at. Illegal miniſterial conduct has almoſt ruined this fine city, was it mildly governed, it is ſo well ſituated for traffick, that it certainly would be the reſidence of a number of Chriſtian merchants, which would make it one of the richeſt and moſt flouriſhing places in the world.

Tueſday, April 12.

WE went this morning in order to view part of the town, and the buzaars or markets, which

which we found large and extensive, being covered over with arches, built of masonry, and divided into different streets, filled with shops of all kinds of merchandize, to the number of ^{1,200}~~12,000~~; every thing a person can have occasion for, may be had there; the number of houses in the city are computed at near 80,000; each house and shop pay an annual tribute to the bashaw, which is calculated to produce the sum of 300,000*l.* sterling. Besides these immense revenues, that are collected, the bashaw pretends, by repairs on the fortifications, 30 or 40,000*l.* are annually expended, when not so many hundreds are taken out of his coffers for that purpose; likewise clearing the river, and mending the bridge, become a charge greater than their income, and probably not the value of an English shilling is expended.—Thus the Porte is subjected, by the rascality of the governor, to at least as much annual expence as is altogether necessary, owing as much to its own weakness, as to its bad government and policy. To support the expence of the seraglio, their clothes, caparisons of their horses, and every outward pomp, the amount is considerable.—We took the opportunity of viewing the citadel, which stands on the north side of the town, and commands

mands the river, and consists of curtains, and bastions, on which some very long cannon are mounted, with two mortars in each bastion, placed on no other beds than the ground; they appeared so much honey-combed, and the touch-holes so very bad, that I am convinced no European would fire them; the carriages of the guns are likewise so unweildy, and in such a shattered condition, that, from their appearances, they would not support one firing, but would be shaken in pieces; their elevations were from thirty to forty degrees, but they had no quoins to level them. There are, besides, a number of small towers, and loop holes for musquetry, placed at certain distances, all well encompassed by a ditch of twenty-five feet deep, which can be filled at any time by the waters of the Tygris. The citadel is so close to the houses, that it might be easily taken, if possession was once gained of the town; but from what little I have seen, I would not advise an attack to be made towards the land, as sluices might, with the greatest facility, be cut into the ditch, and so overflow the country for miles round; an advantageous attack might be made from the water, two small vessels, from eight to twelve guns, would be of infinite service, both to bat-

ter the town, and to cover the landing of the troops. We were shewn a number of cannon, and some mortars, which were left by Nader Shah, when he retreated from this place. In one corner of the citadel is a platform of small cannon, which serves as a saluting battery.—The mornings of the 13th and 14th instant, we spent in viewing the ancient buildings of the place; among others we were shewn a khan, said to be built 800 years ago, by one of the Cæsars, but this like many others of their accounts, I could hardly credit, as the Roman Empire was extinct long before that period. It is, however, a fine, large, lofty structure, and is considered as an ornament of antiquity; the bricks, of which it is built, appear as fresh as if made only a few years.—On the 16th we rode round the city, which is fortified by lofty thick walls of brick, covered with earth, and strengthened by great towers, much resembling cavalier bastions, the whole being surrounded by a deep ditch. The city is in the form of an irregular square; the walls, in many places, are broken down, occasioned by the disputes which happened on the death of Abdulla Basha, about twelve months since, when two competitors arose in Bagdad, for the Bashawick, who fought
several

several times in the town and citadel, and laid great part of it in ruins. In the interim, the governor of Mussool and Nineveh being appointed Bashaw by the Porte, came hither with a considerable army, and took possession of the sovereignty, vanquishing his two opponents. Opposite the city, on the other side of the river, are the very extensive suburbs, from whence shells might be thrown into the town, which would have a dreadful effect on a place so closely built; there is a communication between the city and suburbs, by a bridge of boats, the only kind of bridge which that river will admit of as it is broad and deep, and in its ordinary course very rapid; at certain seasons it swells to a prodigious height, and overflowing the country occasions many morasses on that side opposite the city. Among these are several towns and villages, whose inhabitants are said to be the ancient Chaldeans; they are of a particular religion, which they pretend is that of Seth. The inhabitants of this city are composed chiefly of Persians, Armenians, Turks, Arabs, and Jews, which last act in the capacity of schroffs, or bankers, to the merchants. The Jews, notwithstanding the severe treatment they meet with from the government, are induced to live here

from a reverence to the prophet Ezekiel, whose mausoleum, they pretend, is a day's journey from the city. Besides the Jews who reside here, there are many that come every year out of devotion, to visit the prophet's tomb. There are also two European gentlemen, a Venetian, and a Frenchman, with five Romish priests, who are Frenchmen and Italians. Two chapels are permitted for those of the Romish and Greek persuasions, at the former the five priests officiate. In the city are several large, beautiful mosques, but into which Christians are never suffered to enter if known to be such, for fear it should defile them. There are also a number of antique buildings; at the distance of about ten miles stand the ruins of an ancient tower said to be built by Nimrod, for the better observation of the celestial bodies, of which I shall take occasion to speak hereafter. On the 18th we walked out to take a view of a garden belonging to one of the late Bashaws, at a little distance from the city: It abounded with fruit trees of all kinds, but its greatest beauty, and what best deserved our attention, was the orangery, which is a large piece of ground, divided into squares, with walks between them, and which are shaded with spreading orange trees, bearing, when we
were

were there, the finest fruit I ever saw, so beautifully intermixed with leaves, as to afford a more delightful sight than can possibly be imagined.

During our residence here, we had an opportunity of seeing the Bashaw go to his mosque: He is a man of but a mean appearance, but was attended by a body guard of about twenty men, armed with lances; he was richly dressed, and mounted on a fine horse, most superbly caparisoned; behind him was led another state horse, on which he returned, it being their custom never to ride back the same horse they go out on. We likewise saw his palace, which affords nothing worth relating, it being but a very indifferent edifice; the one belonging to the late Bashaw's wife, is undoubtedly a very noble and princely building; the ceilings, and pannels of the rooms are richly ornamented with gold and paintings after the Persian fashion; her female attendants, we are told, amounted to upwards of one hundred. The Mahometan women are very richly dressed, wearing bracelets on their arms, and jewels in their ears; the Arabian women have the partition between their nostrils bored, wherein they wear rings.

Tuesday, April 19.

THIS morning we began making preparations for our departure: The shaick, of whom we hired the caravan came to us, and on seeing our baggage, said, that eight camels were not able to carry the things, and a sufficient quantity of water for our horses; this caused some little demur amongst us; he, at last, consented to reduce the price of the camels we should have extraordinary, to forty piastras, on our paying forty-four each for the first eight, and we were necessitated to agree to pay, for thirteen camels, ten armed men, with other attendants to Aleppo, 310 Turkish checkeens. Every thing was to be in readiness for our departure in two days, and he bound himself, by a written obligation, to obey our directions in all matters during the journey. This is absolutely necessary in every concern with a shaick.

Wednesday, April 20.

OUR horses and baggage were sent across the river, with our servants, to the place from whence the caravan was to set out; we remained, this day, at Bagdad, to settle our accounts, &c. with Mr. Marcar, and to give him bills on Aleppo for what money we had received from him.

him. We proposed to proceed in the morning about break of day, and gave directions to have every thing in readiness for setting off, on our arrival at the place.—Since we have been in this city, we were informed, that on the Persians evacuating Bassora, shaick Tamar, with a party of Arabs, had taken possession of that place, for the Turks.—Whilst we tarried here, we have had repeated opportunities of observing the villainies of Risha, our linguist, particularly in some transactions he had with one of the company, and for fear of forgetting some of the most capital ones, I shall endeavour to insert them here, for my own justification, and to prevent others from falling into the same snare: On our journey from Bassora to Semowha, he was continually representing to us the necessity of our making presents, which, I am convinced, there was not the smallest occasion for, excepting to the governor of Semowha, on whom, should you be obliged to wait there a day or two, a trifling present is not badly bestowed, to prevent you from the impositions of the custom-master, who will make you pay severely for your baggage, unless he is restrained by the governor. In all contracts entered into with the sciads or shaicks, who accompany you from Semowha to Hilla,

care must be taken in the agreement, to have it inserted in full of all demands, on your arrival thither. Yet, notwithstanding, if you are men of fortune, and can well afford it, a present of a coarse shawl, a benish, or a pair of common pistols, should be made him, for your own credit. On your arrival at Hilla, you must endeavour to procure yourselves good horses, saddles, and bridles, otherwise you will be accommodated only with mules or asses, accoutred with packs and halters; the price of an ass or mule, from Hilla to Bagdad, is from two piastrs and a half to three and a half. Another imposition of Risha's, was, his charging for a Turkish dress 100 piastrs, which was 100 per cent. on what it cost; for an argile, 17 checkeens, when he had paid no more than eight and a half for it; from the purchase of a horse, 60 checkeens, he obliged the seller to refund 17, which he appropriated to his own use. This day, in particular, Mr. Marcar gave us a further proof of his imposition, by informing us of his attempting to defraud us of twenty Turkish checkeens. This determined us to discharge the rascal from our service, fearing, that to answer his own ends, he would subject us to numberless unnecessary expences on the road; and having De Bourg's linguist with us, who had been
this

this route before, and one of our servants also understanding the language, we found we could do much better without him.

Thursday, April 21.

HAVING adjusted our little concerns, we crossed the river about five in the morning, and went to the place from whence the caravan set out. On our arrival we called Risha to us, and, in the presence of Mr. Marcar, who accompanied us, acquainted him, we were so well convinced of his illegal conduct towards us, that we were resolved to dismiss him, and that we would certainly make Mr. Latouche acquainted with the frauds he had practised on us; however, as we had agreed with him to go with us to Aleppo for 200 piaftres, we would pay him the half of that sum. On hearing this, he endeavoured to justify himself, and to mollify our severity towards him; but, finding all his entreaties would not avail, he had recourse to insolent language, but we soon silenced him, by behaving with a proper spirit. We wrote to Mr. Latouche, complaining of the treatment we had received from him,* and delivered the letter to
our

* Since I have been in England, I have been favoured with a letter from the worthy resident of Bassora, informing

our friend Marcar, who soon after took his leave of us. Risha now, finding us resolute, took himself quietly away.—About seven o'clock we set out with the caravan, and travelled for about two hours, when we halted, and pitched our tents on a spacious plain, where we waited for the shaick and our armed men.

Friday, April 22.

HAVING continued the remaining part of the preceding day on this plain, in expectation of our armed people joining us, we were informed that they would not come till late in the evening, as the shaick had not as yet settled his affairs. Accordingly, about nine o'clock at night, they arrived, and gave us notice to have every thing in readiness for setting off by sun-rise the next morning.

Saturday, April 23.

AT break of day began loading the camels, which took up somewhat more than an hour. Four gentlemen of our party, and myself, accompanied by the shaick rode across the coun-

forming me, that in consequence of our joint letter of complaint against Risha, he had made him refund a part of his ill-gotten cash, which he had remitted to India on our account; and had expelled him the factory.

try

try the distance of about ten miles, to view the tower of Nimrod, and as we travelled on horseback, we could easily overtake the caravan. Before we had proceeded half way, an accident happened to a gentleman's saddle, which detained him behind. After travelling through exceeding high reeds and rushes, and a very disagreeable road, in about two hours we came to the tower, which is built on an eminence, and a base of about 100 cubits diameter. It appears almost like a mass of earth, being erected of bricks dried by the sun, amazing thick, and between every three or four feet there is a layer of reeds; its height is at least 160 feet, but we found no remains either of a door or stairs. The only curiosity which struck us, was the astonishing freshness of the reeds, which seem as if put in but a very few years ago, though by the best accounts we could find, it has been built upwards of 4000 years. It is impossible, from its present decayed state, to form any true conception of its original design, but it is supposed to have been intended for the better observation of the heavenly bodies, the Chaldeans being the first people who professed the art of Astronomy.—After amusing ourselves for an hour in surveying this ancient tower, we crossed
an

an extensive plain which seemed to have been lately overflowed. In about two hours afterwards we came up with the caravan, and found that the gentleman we had left behind was also arrived; he had lost his way, but falling in with some Arabs, by the promise of a present, he induced them to conduct him to the caravan. At three in the afternoon we halted and pitched our tents. We were told that some of the camels had thrown down their loads, from which accident many of our things were broken, and a boy, belonging to a gentleman in company, was hurt very severely by a kick he received from one of them, in his loins.—The camel is wonderfully adapted by Providence for travelling through hot, sandy deserts, being able to go three or four days (some say six or seven) without water. They generally browse on the little shrubs which these barren wilds produce, and if they meet with nothing of that kind, a small quantity of corn, or a few balls made of the meal which travellers commonly carry along with them, will nourish one of those animals a whole day. They can carry six or seven hundred weight, with which they travel at the rate of two miles and a half an hour, or thereabouts, and their day's journey is frequently twelve or fifteen

fifteen hours. The fleshy foot of the camel is well fitted to the hot sands, which parch and damage the hoof. The camel generally lies down to be mounted, but if dismounted on the road, the rider gets up again by the assistance of a man, who stoops down for that purpose.

Sunday, April 24.

EARLY this morning we continued our journey, proceeding for about four hours and a half, when we came to a watering place, where our people insisted on waiting till next morning, for two other caravans. We the more readily complied with their request, as the boy who was yesterday injured by the camel, was now in great pain, and apparently very sick.

Monday, April 25.

By sun-rise we were in motion, but had not travelled more than two hours, when we were accosted by two horsemen belonging to Solomon Beg, a chief of an Arab banditti, which infest the environs of Bagdad. They brought a letter, addressed to the shaicks of caravans, that were with us, acquainting them, that he had levied a custom on all caravans passing with merchandise, and concluded with advising them to acquiesce in

in his demand, and not give him the trouble of coming down for it. This caused a consultation to be held among the shaicks, but they at length determined to go on to the watering place, from whence they would send him a present; at this watering place (a large well, sunk in the desert) we arrived about ten o'clock, and pitched our tents. About three in the afternoon we were alarmed by the cry of Arabs, and going out of the tent perceived about thirty horsemen coming down upon us; our armed people were commanded out to reconnoitre them, but finding they belonged to Solomon Beg, suffered them to come into the camp. They alighted from their horses, and being seated on a carpet spread for them, began to enter upon the business they came about. However, it was deferred till they had eaten together, it being the Arabian custom, first to eat, which expresses a token of friendship, and then to proceed to business. After they had finished their meal, they received a trifling present from the merchants, amounting in value to about twenty piastrres, on which they quietly departed. Though on their first appearance, our shaick had desired us to keep within the tent, they seemed to be such a rabble, that I am confident twenty men, well armed,

armed, would be more than a match for the whole banditti, as these were only supplied with swords and long spears.

Tuesday, April 26.

AT half past five o'clock we pursued our journey, and at twelve came to another watering place, and pitched our tents. Here we could get no fodder for our horses, and being unable to persuade the shaick to go on, were obliged to continue there for the remaining part of the day, and all night. On our first arrival here, the water of the well had such a dreadful taste, and stunk so abominably, that we could not use it, but on digging five or six feet deeper, we found some very good, which was a joyful acquisition to thistly travellers. This afternoon, we observed the boy, who was hurt by the camel, had the small pox broke out on him.

Wednesday, April 27,

WE decamped about sun-rise, travelling over a very pleasant plain, agreeably interspersed with young southern wood, bushes, and wild flowers. At twelve, we halted, near a small brook of water, where we remained all night. For these two days, we have observed an amazing number

ber of partridges, also some hares, and antelopes, but were not able to procure any of the latter.

Thursday, April 28.

By five o'clock this morning we set out, and proceeding on, we observed a number of birds at a little distance on the left, and having my gun with me, I rode towards them, in hopes of killing some, and being led, through eagerness of sport, to a considerable distance, I lost sight of the caravan, and riding about for near an hour, and not being able to find them, I determined to make for the river, which lay due west, distant about twelve miles, that being the only hope I had left of meeting with them. On ascending a small hill, I observed, at a considerable distance, on the right, a parcel of camels, I took them for ours, and rode towards them as fast as possible, which pace, in less than an hour, brought me up with them; but, finding they did not belong to our company, and that I could gain no intelligence from them of our caravan, I continued my route, in expectation of overtaking a large flock that were at a distance, and which I took to be our camels. Before I had proceeded half a mile, I espied a horseman, armed with a lance and sword, coming towards me,

me. I at first supposed him to be one of our people, sent in search of me, but was soon convinced of my error, by his advancing towards me with his lance ready pois'd ; I immediately halted and cocked my fuzee, putting myself in a posture of defence, which he perceiving, stopped likewise, and spoke several words which I did not understand. On finding me determined to defend myself, he suffered me to go on ; and, on drawing nearer the flock which I had conjectured to be our camels, found them to be bullocks. I now thought it much more eligible to return to the small caravan I had lately left, than to run any farther risk, especially as I was entirely ignorant what road to take. On my return, I again encountered the Arab, who now crossed the road, and behaved in a very hostile manner, which I took not the least notice of, but kept myself on my guard ; I resolved not to fire at him, till he first threw his lance at me, as he then would give me an opportunity of making my aim more certain, by advancing nearer to him. This determination I took because, should I have missed him, he would have had every advantage over me, as I had no other weapon of defence than my fuzee. At this critical period the caravan came in sight, and

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observing

observing my situation, sent two of their people to my assistance, which caused the fellow immediately to ride off. On joining the caravan, they treated me very civilly, assuring me of their protection, until I should meet with my own people; and at the same time informed me, that the man who threatened to attack me was a wild Arab, who would have plundered me of every thing, had I not been armed. In about half an hour afterwards, we were joined by a merchant belonging to a caravan in our company, with whom I proceeded forwards, and in about an hour came up with our party, after being absent near four hours. I found my companions had been under great apprehensions for my safety, and had sent out several persons in search of me. What I have here related, will plainly shew how necessary it is for strangers to keep in sight of the caravan; for, from the vast plains, and hills all around, people may easily miss the road, and will then run a great risk of being plundered, if not assassinated. About noon we came to our ground in a valley surrounded by high mountains about five miles distance from the river; a number of lions are said to infest its banks, though we were not in the least disturb'd by any of them. In our way

way hither we passed by some hills of a shining marle, that is a whitish colour, much resembling marble, only 'tis of a softer nature, which has a very striking appearance.

Friday, April 29.

By sun-rise we set off for Heat, which our shaick told us was about five hours journey from hence, and we reached it about the time he mentioned. In the evening, having some conversation with our shaick concerning the ruins on the road, he told us there were many near Damascus, and between that place and Aleppo, which he expressed a high satisfaction at having seen. We informed him we had read much about Tadmor or Palmyra, and the other cities between Damascus and Aleppo, and asked him if he would undertake to conduct us that route? He said he would not only convey us to Damascus, but also to as many ruins as he possibly could, which were likely to afford us any satisfaction.—We found the direct road from hence to Damascus very dangerous, but less so if we took that towards Aleppo for seven days, and then turn off from thence to a town, the name of which is forgot, so on to Palmyra, &c.

and Damascus, and then take the route by five towns, built by the ancients, but now inhabited by Turks and Arabs to Aleppo. We agreed, if on further enquiries we found it eligible, to send an express to the consul at Aleppo, and to Mr. Charles Smith, on whom we had our bills drawn, requesting them to procure us letters of protection to the governors of the different places and cities we were to pass through, to exempt us from a sort of tax, or head-money, they lay on Christians, as also to give us credit for cash, should we have any occasion for it.—The town of Heat appears, at a distance like a parcel of Moorish burying places, having a minaret at each end; it is situated on the declivity of a hill; the houses are chiefly built of that kind of marble which I described in my journal of yesterday; the streets whereof are narrow, as is usual in hot countries, which added to the meanness of the houses, make it a very disagreeable and unhealthy place. We here cross the Euphrates, and our course is direct N. W. to Aleppo. On the river near this town we observed several ruins, that we conjectured might have been bridges, but the Arab tradition is, that they are the ruins of corn mills, erected by the Amalekites in the reign of king David, but this, like most others
of

of their stories is not to be depended on. A great trade is carried on from hence in damar, which is brought from it all the way down the Euphrates, and over land to Bagdad; it is a bitumen much resembling pitch, is used as such by Asiatics, and can hardly be distinguished from it but by its smell, which more resembles sulphur.

Saturday, April 30.

OUR horses were swum across the river, and our shaick had acquainted us that we must relinquish our intended plan of visiting Palmyra and Damascus, he having gained intelligence of a banditti which infested the roads between these two places. On hearing this we thought it most prudent to desist from our first intention; but I have since much regretted that timidity so far over-powered us, as to prevent our visiting Palmyra, the residence of queen Xenobia, a place as well famous for the magnificence of its architecture, as for the gallant defence which it made against the Romans, (but being at length taken, the unfortunate queen was led captive through the streets of Rome, to grace the triumph of her conquerors,) for I may safely venture to assert, from the accounts I have read of those curious ruins, they are no where to be

equalled. In the afternoon we rode out to view the country, and then took the opportunity of surveying some of the ruins on the river, and found one of them made use of at present as a corn-mill: it consists of three wheels, made of crooked sticks tied together, to which are added some small wings made of reeds, these by the force of the stream are turned round, and serve to work the mills; a number of pots are likewise affixed to the wheels, from which water is conveyed into the gardens by spouts placed for that purpose.

Sunday, May 1.

FINDING the weather to grow immoderately hot, we determined to procure mahaffes, a kind of covered couch, two of which are fixed together by ropes, and hung on each side of a camel trained for that purpose, and are very convenient for travellers, who, by sitting in them, are protected from the scorching rays of the sun, but being unacquainted with the price of them, we contracted with our guide, to abide by the decision of Messrs. Abbott and Smith of Aleppo, and to pay whatever they thought was equitable. With great difficulty, two wretched ones, almost broken to pieces, were procured, but as

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no others could be got here, we were glad to take them, and set about having them repaired with all possible expedition.

Tuesday, May 3.

THIS day, and the day preceeding, were spent in making the necessary preparations for our departure. The boy, who had the small-pox, continuing very ill, had a common mahaffe provided for him to defend him from the excessive heat; we should have left him behind, had we any one to whom we could have entrusted the care of him. His master was further induced to take him with us, from seeing two or three slaves infected with the same disorder in the caravan, who were carried in the like manner, and seemed to support the motion without any great inconvenience.

Wednesday, May 4.

HAVING put ourselves in a pretty good posture for travelling, we set out from Heat, about seven o'clock in the morning. The wind, blowing hard from the Eastward, made it very disagreeable travelling to us, on account of the clouds of sand raised by the wind. At twelve o'clock we halted on the banks of the river,

which afforded a very pleasing and proper place for our camp.

Thursday, May 5.

EARLY this morning we continued our journey, and travelled till about twelve o'clock, when we pitched our tents. This day was the most sultry of any we have yet experienced, we therefore found our mahaffes of the greatest service. About two o'clock this afternoon, our disordered boy departed this life. I am apprehensive that the violence of the heat overcame him, though his disorder was of an exceeding bad kind, and had but an indifferent appearance from the beginning; we buried the poor boy, and made the grave of a considerable depth, to prevent, if possible, the wild beasts from getting at the body. In the evening began a very hard rain, accompanied with a great deal of thunder and lightening, and the wind continuing very high, we were obliged to strike our tents, and to shift in the best manner we could, by retiring to our mahaffes, where we were able to brave the weather, which, for the most part of the night, continued very boisterous.

Friday, May 6.

By five o'clock this morning we departed, and travelled till about half past three, in quest
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of a watering-place, when we found we had by some accident or other unfortunately taken the wrong road, and the day being far advanced, we were compelled to halt, which put us to some inconvenience for want of water for our horses.

Saturday, May 7.

WE set off this morning about half past five, in search of water ; after ascending several high mountains, in' about two hours we reached a very pleasant valley, where we found some pools of rain water, which, at this time, was a very valuable acquisition to us, as our horses and camels were almost spent for want of it. Here we encamped and remained all day, and filled our vessels with water, the shaick having told us it was probable we might not meet with any more for these four days to come. The hills hereabout contain quarries of hard white stone, which much resembles marble, but is not of so fine a nature.

Sunday, May 8.

WE set forward early this morning, and after two hours travelling, over hills, &c. we arrived in an extensive plain, on a level with the hills we had passed ; the circumjacent country is exceedingly mountainous, which, in some measure,
accounts

accounts for the surprising clearness of the air. The heats after ten o'clock are so intolerable, as to oblige us to retire into our mahaffes. By half past four we fortunately came to a fine pool of rain water, near which we chose for the place of our encampment.

Monday, May 9.

FROM this station we set out about five in the morning, and travelled till near four; we then halted for the night. The former part of this day being cloudy, attended with some little rain, it cooled the air, which made it much more agreeable.

Tuesday, May 10.

BY five this morning we again set forward, and travelling about three hours, we reached a valley, where we found a pool of water; here we halted till twelve, when we took some refreshment, replenished our water-skins, and then proceeded on till six in the evening. We rested this night in a place where we were induced to stay by a few shrubs, which served our camels to browse upon.

Wednesday, May 11.

WE resumed our journey early this morning, and continued moving forward till about four in the afternoon, when we were tempted to pitch

our

our tents and take up our lodgings for the night, by finding plenty of good grafs for our horses.

Thursday, May 12.

WE proceeded on our journey at our usual time of setting off, and travelled till near three o'clock, when we encamped on a plain where there had run a rivulet of water, but, to our great mortification, found it dried up, but on discovering that the watering-place of Juba Gannon, (a large well) was at the distance only of about four miles, we insisted on being conducted to it. This occasioned a long dispute between our shaick and the man to whom the camels belonged, who absolutely refused to go any further. During this conference, a number of people called Syllabees, consisting of men, women, and children, came into the camp; they are a set of begging Arabs, who subsist chiefly on the deer they catch, and are clad in the skins of those animals. With them came some people belonging to another caravan, and gave us information that they had travelled the high road, and were unable to procure any water; but that they had met with some wounded people belonging to a tribe of Arabs, who were at war with another tribe, and that they had acquainted

quainted them, that a part of their enemies were at Juba Gannon; as those were also at enmity with our shaicks, they requested we might join caravans until we passed them, in order that we might be the better able to defend ourselves, should they attack us. This was readily agreed to on our part. We found it necessary to keep a strict look out after our property, the Syllabees being much addicted to pilfering, and, among the Arabs, are held in the same estimation as Gypsies are in England.—We this day procured some hares, which were very acceptable, as we had now subsisted for several days on salt provisions.

Friday, May 13.

EARLY this morning we decamped, in order to join the other caravan, and after crossing the country for about six miles, we came up with it, and then halted for the day. We received intelligence from them, that on the 11th a battle was fought, in the valley of Garer, between shaick Mawgamish, of the tribe of Shamer, and the Annazeen tribes of Fiddaun and Swalmee. The former vanquished the latter, captured most of them, and plundered them of their camels and other effects; and that the victorious shaick had marched to Juba Gannon, intending

tending to water his camels, &c. there, and afterwards to proceed farther into the country. Seven men much wounded, who had fled from the field of battle, got to this place yesterday, and had given those people this information, which determined the shaicks to take another road, and not proceed to the usual watering-place of Juba Gannon, but fill our skins with water here, which we found both muddy and of a disagreeable taste.

Saturday, May 14.

WE left our resting-place by five o'clock in the morning, and travelled till near five in the afternoon, when we came to our ground for the night. During our perigrination this day, we were frequently alarmed by some scouting parties of the enemy coming in sight, they, however, did not at all molest us.

↳ *Sunday, May 15.*

BY sun-rise we set off, and had not proceeded above three hours, when we espied, on our right, a body of people, at the distance of about four miles advancing towards us. Our guard, and those of the other caravans in company being commanded out, we were able to muster upwards

wards of fifty men, well armed. The Arabs, however, did not approach nearer us, and we afterwards learned they were friends, being Annazeens, of Fiddaun. About four o'clock in the afternoon we halted, and pitched our tents for the night.

Monday, May 16.

At half past four we left our resting-place, and about noon came in sight of the ruins of Kassar Luckween or the two brothers. I, in company with two gentlemen of the party, and our shaick, together with four Arabs, crossed the country for the space of five miles, on purpose to view them. They appeared to have been surrounded by a canal of water for about five miles; the outside walls of the houses are still tolerably whole, each was built in form of a square, and had a round tower on every angle, and others in the intervals. The cornices in the front are ornamented in a very elegant manner, one entire pillar of black marble is still standing, as also one of oriental granite, the capital of which seems to be of the Corinthian order. In front of the ruins is a large square tower, which I suppose was used as a watch-house; we ascended to the top of it by a flight of

of steps, from whence we had a view of both ruins; the rooms have been arched, but the roofs and floors being decayed, 'tis impossible to form any just idea of them. The tradition, as far as we could discover from the Arabs, is of so confused a nature as to render it difficult to form a perfect notion of it. Thus those curious relicts of ancient architectural grandeur, are hid in a veil of obscurity, the result of modern Eastern ignorance; and want of literature! The Arab account of it is as follows: " That a prophet foretold to two Arab princes, who were brothers, that if they married two sisters, whom she described, and resided together, harmony would subsist between them; but if they neglected this, they would be divided. In consequence of this, they obeyed, as they imagined, the dictates of Heaven, and built these houses contiguous to each other, endeavouring, as far as their wealth and power enabled them, (by forming a canal round, laying out the grounds in elegant gardens, beautifying and ornamenting their houses, &c.) to make it as agreeable a place of residence as art could devise. But in process of time, the women having quarrelled, it caused differences between the husbands, which

" which occasioned a separation, and, having
 " abandoned their delightful habitations, each
 " raised a body of men, and waged war on the
 " desert."—What seems, in some measure, to
 corroborate this tradition, that the proprietors
 were Arabs, is an Arabic inscription on one of
 the arches, containing a pious exhortation.
 About four o'clock we reached the ruins of
 Tybe, a village about six miles north-west of
 Kassar Luckween, where we halted. This place
 is very famous for its fine stream of water, and
 is the usual watering-place of the caravans to
 and from Aleppo, from which it is distant about
 three days journey ; it was formerly a very po-
 pulous place, and was inhabited till within these
 few years past, but the inhabitants, by being
 continually subject to the depredations of the
 wild Arabs, were forced to abandon this delight-
 ful village. In the ruins of the gateway is a
 coptic inscription, which seems to denote its be-
 ing of great antiquity. A square minaret is still
 standing ; but the houses are decayed.—In a-
 bout half an hour after our arrival here, a cara-
 van came in from Aleppo, on their way to Bag-
 dad ; they had been four days on their journey
 hither. From them we learned that Mr. Bur-
 ford arrived at Aleppo three weeks before, and
 that

that the gentlemen of that place began to express great apprehensions for our safety, in consequence of his having informed them of the situation he had left us in at Semowha. At the earnest solicitations of our shaicks, we agreed to remain here for a day, to rest the camels and horses.

Sunday, May 17.

THIS morning four of the camels were found dead, occasioned by the three last days fatigue. We spent many hours in making more accurate observations on the ruins of the village, which appears to have been very extensive, and pleasantly situated, but, for the reasons before related, it is now entirely deserted. The ascent to the minaret is by a flight of winding stone steps, which are yet so perfect as to allow you to go up to the top of them. In one of the windows of the minaret is an Arabic inscription, which, translated into English, is as follows :—“ Hod-
“ zee Alli, a repenting sinner, and a poor man,
“ has dedicated this to God, in token of his re-
“ pentance.” The minaret is built of very excellent square, soft stones, and the mortar is exceedingly hard.—Part of the place seems to have been fortified, as the remains of two round

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towers

towers are still to be seen near the gateway.— To prove the fertility of the soil hereabouts, I need only mention, that among the reeds, in a pool of water, we discovered great quantities of fine wild celary, which plainly evinces what it would produce, was it properly cultivated ; and, indeed, all the country within a day's journey from the rivers, appears to me the finest pasture land I ever beheld ; in many parts we found spots over-run with wild corn of different kinds, which I presume were places that caravans had halted at, or where Arab encampments had been. The face of the country farther up was variable ; some days we travelled over plains of sand, without the least verdure ; at other times we found a fine green sod, beautifully enamelled with wild flowers ; then have passed stony and rocky mountains, so that the notion entertained of the Desert of Arabia being an entire sandy plain, is quite erroneous.—We here received information that De Bourg, the Frenchman, who came with us from India to Corna, had been robbed and stripped by the Curds, an independent banditti.

Monday, May 18.

By five in the morning the Bagdad caravan departed from hence, as did ours in about an hour

hour afterwards. We had not travelled more than two hours, before we met another caravan, going from Aleppo to Mussool, which had left the former place on Saturday last. There was with them a messenger, returning to Bassora with dispatches from the consul, to the resident of that place; he had left Bassora thirty days, having been taken prisoner by the Arabs, who after detaining him fifteen days, and examining his dispatches, suffered him to proceed. — About twelve o'clock we were not a little surprised to find our caravan had halted, as the shaick had assured us at Tybe, we should certainly travel ten hours every day. This breach of his promise irritated us very much, and brought us to the determination of protesting against him for not performing his contract. This resolution soon brought the gentleman to reason, and he entered into a written agreement to conduct us safe to Aleppo in four days from our leaving Tybe. — I am now, from this circumstance, convinced of what was before my opinion, that it is necessary to be resolute, and by no means to suffer these fellows to relax from their duty, for if they find you once give up to them, they will ever after impose on you, which I have repeatedly experienced. Letters were this day wrote to

the Consul, and Mr. Smith, of Aleppo, informing them of our safe arrival thus far, and delivered to the shaick, who promised to dispatch a messenger with them early the next morning.

Tuesday, May 19.

WE continued our journey at a very early hour this morning, and travelled till about twelve o'clock, when we rested for about two hours, and then advanced forwards again. At five o'clock we chose ground for our night's repose.—In the evening one of the Arabs was bit by a snake, (which are hereabouts reckoned very venomous) in the toe. It caused his leg to swell prodigiously, and as the poison seemed to be mounting upwards a-pace, and the poor fellow being in great agony, the Arabs were apprehensive it would be attended with fatal consequences, but, luckily, one of our party having practised physick in India, had the presence of mind to heat an iron ramrod, (having no proper surgical instrument,) and therewith burnt the wounded toe quite to the bone, which prevented the direful effects of the poison, and in a short time, with the assistance of medicine, brought about a perfect cure.

Wednesday,

Wednesday, May 20.

By five o'clock we set forward and proceeded on our journey 'till near two o'clock, when we halted. The messenger we despatched yesterday returned about three o'clock this afternoon, having lost his way, which obliged us to procure another man, better acquainted with the road, whom we sent off immediately. Finding we were now within two days easy journey of Aleppo, and that we should be much retarded if we continued with the caravans, we with some difficulty prevailed on our shaick to permit us to separate from them, and to depart from hence by the rising of the moon, by which means we should be enabled to reach the environs of Aleppo by to-morrow evening, at farthest. In the afternoon of this day the weather proved very hazy, and was attended with some smart showers of rain, which, together with a very high wind, incommoded us a great deal; towards night it cleared up, and by half past nine o'clock we set out, with our small caravan, leaving the others behind: We travelled till near three o'clock in the morning, when we came to a plain encompassed with high hills, and the moon at this time going down, we here took a few hours repose.

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Thursday,

Thursday, May 21.

WE set forward again by sun-rise, but had not gone many miles before it began to rain very heavily, accompanied with thunder and lightening; the rain made the ground so slippery that the camels could hardly keep on their feet. About ten o'clock we came to a salt lake, which is reported to be fifteen miles in circumference. In about two hours afterwards we passed by a village called Hagla, and by four reached Spherry; a village, where we stopped, in expectation of receiving an answer from the consul and Mr. Smith, to the letters we had sent them. About five we were agreeably surprised by the arrival of Mr. Henry Shaw, sent to us by the consul, to conduct us to Aleppo, with a very polite and friendly invitation to his house. It being too late to proceed to Aleppo this evening, we were accommodated with a very good house at the village. The houses here are on a curious construction, appearing outwardly like pyramids. During our journey this day we met with several parties of the Bedwins, a Turkish rabble, who never offered to molest us, though report says they often plunder caravans.

Friday, May 22.

ABOUT five in the morning we set out for
Aleppo

Aleppo, which place we reached in about four hours, and were conducted to the consulary house, where we received a most friendly reception from our worthy consul John Abbot, Esq. at whose house four of the party were accommodated, the other gentleman unprovided for, lived with Mr. Robert Abbot, the consul's brother, who, with several gentlemen of the place, had gone out to meet us, but we had not the pleasure to fall in with any of them, except Mr. William Smith, nephew of Mr. Charles Smith, of this place. We were informed that yesterday afternoon there fell in Aleppo a very severe hail storm, which broke almost every window in the place, and did other considerable damage, but did not extend so far as to Sperry, the village which we were at, about the distance of seven miles from hence.

BEFORE I finally take my leave of Arabia, I hope the following account of the descent of the Arabs, (a people who are so frequently mentioned in the foregoing sheets,) and the wonderful protection of Providence towards them, as extracted from an Illustration of the Bible, will not prove unacceptable to my readers, or be deemed inconsistent with the design of this work :

GOD knows all things; he understands what they will be, long before they happen; all the circumstances of our lives, where we shall be placed on earth, and the bounds of our habitation, are known to him before we are born. We have here, and in the following chapters, the distinguishing particulars of ISHMAEL, and of his descendants to this very day, after the long space of above three thousand years; for it is to be remarked, that, according to the language of scripture, what is spoken of the head or founder of any people, must be understood to be spoken of his descendants likewise, and to be their general character, as well as his in particular.

It is in *Gen. xvi. 12.* foretold, that he would be a wild man, or as the Hebrew is, a man like a wild

wild afs; and, therefore, to know what was to be the character and way of life of Ishmael and his descendants, we must enquire what is the nature of the wild afs, and this we may best learn from the description which God himself hath given of it in the book of *Job*, ch. xxxix. 5. &c. *Who hath sent out the wild afs free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild afs? Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings. He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver. The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing.* It is plain, therefore, that by this expression was meant, that Ishmael and his posterity were to be wild, fierce, savage, ranging in the deserts, and not easily softened and tamed to society; And whoever hath read or known any thing of this people, knoweth this to be their true and genuine character. We find by *Gen.* xxi. 20. that Ishmael himself *dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer*: And the same is no less true of his descendants than of himself. *He dwelt in the wilderness*; and his sons still inhabit the same wilderness, and many of them neither sow nor plant, according to the best accounts ancient and modern. *And he became an archer; and such*

such were the Itureans, some of his descendants, whose bows and arrows are famous in all authors; such were the mighty men of Kedar, others of his descendants, in Isaiah's time; (*Isa. xxi. 7.*) and such the ARABS, his descendants likewise, have been from the beginning, and are at this time. It was late before they admitted fire arms among them; the greater part are still strangers to them, and still continue skilful archers; and, it is remarkable, that to this day the greatest part of them are called the Wild Arabs.

His hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him. The one is the natural, and almost necessary consequence of the other. Ishmael lived by prey and rapine in the wilderness; and his posterity have all along infested Arabia and the neighbouring countries with their robberies and incursions. They live in a state of continual war with the rest of the world, and are both robbers by land, and pirates by sea. And as they have been such enemies to mankind, it is no wonder that mankind have been enemies to them again, that several attempts have been made to extirpate them; and even now as well as formerly travellers are forced to go with arms and in caravans or large companies,

nies, and to march and keep watch and guard like a little army, to defend themselves from the assaults of these freebooters, who run about in troops, and rob and plunder all whom they can by any means subdue. And these robberies they justify by alledging "the hard usage of
 " their father Ishmael, who being turned out
 " of doors by Abraham, had the open plains
 " and deserts given him by God for his patri-
 " mony, with permission to take whatever he
 " could find there, and on this account they
 " think they may, with a safe conscience, in-
 " demnify themselves as well as they can, not
 " only on the posterity of Isaac, but also on
 " every body else."

And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren; or shall tabernacle; for many of the Arabs dwell in tents, and are therefore called Scenites. This is very extraordinary, that his band should be against every man, and every man's band against him, and yet that he should be able to dwell in the presence of all his brethren: But, extraordinary as it is, this also hath been fulfilled; both in the person of Ishmael and his posterity. As for Ishmael himself, the sacred historian afterwards relates, Gen. xxv. 17, 18. that the years of the life of Ishmael were an hundred and thirty
and

and seven years, and he died in the presence of all his brethren. And as for his posterity, they dwelt likewise in presence of all their brethren, Abraham's sons by Keturah, the Moabites and Ammonites descendants of Lot, the Israelites descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the Edomites descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Esau.. And they still subsist a distinct people, and inhabit the country of their progenitors, notwithstanding the perpetual enmity between them and the rest of mankind.

God's word will always stand ; nothing can make it void ; though part of the country possessed by the descendants of Ishmael has been famous from all antiquity for the happiness of its climate, its fertility, and riches, so as to obtain the name of Arabia the happy ; though besides this temptation, the plundering way of life of the Arabs, and the damage they did to others, has stirred up many great princes their neighbours, to extirpate them, yet all attempts of this sort have ever proved vain : All the great conquerors of antiquity, Cyrus and the Persians, Alexander, and afterwards the Romans, who seem to have conquered and brought under their subjection most other parts of the world with great ease, could by no means bring the Arabs under their subjection.

subjection. Diodorus, a heathen writer, says of them, that neither the Assyrians, nor the kings of the Medes and Persians, nor yet of the Macedonians, were able to subdue them; nay, though they led many and great forces against them, yet they could not accomplish their attempts. And undoubted history informs us of such remarkable interpositions of Providence to preserve them when they have been upon the brink of ruin, that when we consider them, we cannot help being struck with admiration at the holy scriptures *declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done*; all the words of which, being by the inspiration of God, stand fast for ever, and will be accomplished, notwithstanding all the obstacles that men or any other beings may raise to make them void.

When Alexander the Great, (whose conquests astonished the world) overturned the Persian empire, and conquered all Asia, the neighbouring princes sent their ambassadors to make their submissions. The Arabs (the descendants of Ishmael) alone disdained to acknowledge the conqueror, and scorned to send any embassy, or take any notice of him. This slight provoked him to such a degree, that he meditated an expedition

pedition against them ; and humanly speaking, considering the vast army he had, the great assistance he would have received from all the neighbouring princes, and his being in want of nothing that could contribute to his success, we can scarcely suppose but he would have entirely destroyed them ; but, whilst he was thinking on these things, God took him away by death, and put an end to all that his resentment had formed against them.

When the Romans subdued the rest of the East, Arabia alone stood out ; and when Lucullus, one of their generals had subdued some of the Arabs, he was recalled, and Pompey sent in his room ; he, though he triumphed over three parts of the world, could not yet conquer Arabia ; he was indeed in a fair way for it, having obtained some victories, and penetrated into the country ; but *the word of God was against him*, so that when success seemed ready to crown him with an entire subjection of the country, other affairs obliged him to leave it, and by retiring he lost all the advantages he had gained. Ælius Gallus, a Roman general, in the reign of Augustus, penetrated far into the country, but then a strange distemper made terrible havock in his army ; and, after two years spent, he was
glad

glad to retire with a small remainder of his forces. But the interposition of Providence to save them was still more remarkable at the times they were attacked by the emperors Trajan and Severus, which is related by an heathen historian, (Dio.) When Trajan besieged the city of the Hagar-
renes, who were descended and denominated from Hagar, Dio relates, that as often as his soldiers attacked the city, the whole heavens shook with thunder; rainbows were seen in the sky, (both considered as terrifying circumstances by the Romans) violent storms, hail, and thunderbolts, fell upon them; and that all these were repeated as often as they returned to the assault of the city; and that as often as they sat down to refresh themselves at a repast, a number of flies alighting on both their eatables and liquor, made all that they eat or drank most nauseous; so that by these things the emperor was forced at last to raise the siege, and retire with disgrace into his dominions.

And this must appear still the more remarkable, from what an ingenious and learned writer asserts, viz. That with great care he revolved all the accounts of Arabia, to see whether the things which Dio relates to have so greatly distressed the Roman army were common to the country,
and

and that he could not find any instance of any one of them, except sometimes storms of wind ; that even rain is very rarely seen there, and hail, as far as he could find by all accounts, never. It may be further observed, that when they were attacked by Trajan, the power of the whole world was united into one empire, and the whole power of that empire in his hands ; and that he was himself a man of as consummate abilities as ever lived, remarkably beloved by his soldiers, indefatigable in the toils of war, greatly experienced in all that belongs to it, fearless of death in dangers ; so that if it were possible that God's promise of subsistence to Ishmael in freedom, though at enmity with the rest of the world, could be defeated by human wisdom, or mortal might, it must have been at this time. But God had declared that Ishmael, (which included his posterity likewise) should be free as the wild ass, whose *bands he has loosed, who scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver* : that though his hand should be against every man, and every man's hand against him ; yet *he should dwell in the presence of all his brethren* ; that is subsist continually before their faces, notwithstanding all their endeavours to extirpate him.

About

About eighty years after the emperor Severus besieged the same city with a numerous army, and a formidable train of military engines, the most stupendous and most destructive that ever were devised ; disdaining that these Hagarenes should stand out still against the Romans, when all the rest about them had yielded : But he met with no better success than Trajan ; and Dio, the historian, who gives an account of this expedition, as well as of that under Trajan, again remarks, that “ God preserved the city ; ” who, by the means of the emperor, called back the soldiers, when they could have entered it ; and again restrained the emperor from taking it, when he was willing, by the soldiers.

And well might the historian make this remark, for it appears, that the emperor being at first repulsed by the loss of men and munition, made great preparations for the second assault, in which (after a great loss of his soldiers) he overthrew part of the city wall, so that an entrance lay open into the city ; but just at that time the emperor caused a retreat to be sounded, imagining the besieged would come to entreat for peace ; to obtain which, he thought they would discover where the vast treasures, which were supposed to belong to their temple of the sun,

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were

were laid ; and which he thought might be lost, if the city was sacked, and the inhabitants destroyed. But the Hagarenes continued resolute the whole day, giving no intimation of their desire of any treaty of peace. On the morrow following, when the emperor would have renewed the attack, the European soldiers, before most resolute, would make no attempt to enter at the breach ; and the Syrians, enforced to take the service, had a most grievous repulse : No persuasions, no promises, no threats could engage the Europeans to renew their attacks ; so that though after the breach in the walls, the conquest in martial esteem appeared so easy, that one of Severus's captains confidently undertook to effect it, if he could have but five hundred and fifty European soldiers assigned to the attack, yet the emperor could do no more than reply in a distracted rage, Where shall I find so many soldiers ? and so departed into Palestine. And yet this very emperor was beloved and revered by his soldiers almost to adoration, and was so severe in discipline, and so high in authority, that he could, a little before this, turn back his army at a word in the midst of flight and fear ; but could not now influence them to assault the enemy, when they were almost at their mercy.

A fact

A fact so extraordinary, that it appears to be manifestly the interposition of that mighty Being, who at his pleasure *poureth contempt upon princes, and bringeth the counsel of the beathen to nought*. It may be added, that the Hagarenes stood single in this extremity, against the whole Roman power ; for Dio expressly says, that not one of their neighbours would assist them. And we may likewise observe, that the spirit of freedom, which was the declared characteristic of Ishmael before he was born, was extraordinarily remarkable at this time in these his descendants, since they seem to have been fully determined either to live absolutely free, or to die so ; disdaining to have any treaty, or make any terms, even with the emperor of the world.

We have already taken notice of the posterity of Ishmael answering to the character foretold of them, of being as a wild ass, free, ranging at large, and independent ; and that all attempts to bring them into subjection, though made by the most powerful empires in the world, always proved fruitless.—We shall now take notice of another particular foretold of Ishmael, viz. That he should become a great nation. This was in some measure verified by what is recorded in the scriptures concerning the Ishmaelites, who

are spoken of as a considerable people ; but this was nothing to what they afterwards became in latter ages ; for under Mahomet they laid the foundation of a most mighty empire. Their conquests then were amazingly rapid. In a few years they over-run more countries and subdued more people, than the Romans did in centuries, and made themselves masters of the most considerable parts of the earth. And so they continued for above three centuries, under the name of Saracens ; and after their empire was dissolved, and they were reduced within the limits of their own country, they still maintained their liberty, The Turks, who are lords of all the country round, are to this day obliged to pay them an annual tribute for the safe passage of the pilgrims who go to Mecca. They still retain many of the customs which the scriptures relate of them to this day. Two of our nation, Dr. Shaw and Dr. Pococke, have lately travelled among them, and confirm this ; and that they are, their religion excepted, the same people they were two or three thousand years ago ; and still remain of the same character as was foretold of their father Ishmael, fierce, savage, intractable, free, and independent, different from most of the world besides.

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We cannot but consider it as wonderful, that the same people should retain the same dispositions for so many ages, without changing their manners at all in so long a course of years. Their continuance is still more astonishing: The great empires around them have all in their turns fallen to ruin, while they have continued the same from the beginning, and are likely to continue the same to the end, And this in the natural course of human affairs was so highly improbable, if not altogether impossible, that as nothing but a Divine Prescience could have foreseen it, so nothing but a Divine Power could have accomplished it.

We may with more confidence believe the particulars related of Abraham and Ishmael, when we see them verified in their posterity at this day. This is having as it were ocular demonstration for our faith. This is proving by plain matter of fact, that the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and that his truth, as well as his mercy endureth for ever.

[Having inserted the foregoing account, as necessary to give my readers some knowledge of the descent of the Arabs; I shall proceed on my journal, with a few observations on Aleppo.]

A L E P P O.

A Description of Aleppo, the metropolis of Syria, having been the subject of many abler pens than mine, I shall, according to my usual custom, only trouble my readers with the few particulars which fell under my own observation, and which transpired during the time I tarried there :

THIS city, including the suburbs, stands on eight small hills, on the highest of which the castle or citadel is erected : It appears to be of no great strength ; an old wall and a broad ditch, now in many places turned into gardens, surround the city, the circumference of which, together with the suburbs, is about seven miles. The houses are large and commodious, having terraces on their tops, and in general sky-lights, in form of a dome, to let the light into the rooms, which from their loftiness, the gilding on the window shutters, cupboard doors, &c. have at first entrance a very grand and agreeable effect. The bazars, or market-places, are extensive, and arched over, as at Bagdad. The streets are rather narrow, but well paved with large square stones, which are kept very clean. This city is supplied with excellent water from some
springs

springs near the banks of the river Heylan, distant about four miles and a half, which is conveyed from thence by an aqueduct, and distributed to different parts of the town, through earthen pipes. The fuel used here is wood and charcoal. The air is usually accounted healthy, and the seasons in general regular. The inhabitants of Aleppo, though of different religions, seem to live in amity with each other; the city and suburbs contain about 235,000 souls, composed of Turks, Jews, Christians, &c. the language commonly spoken is vulgar Arabic. The people are of a middle stature, tolerably well proportioned, but they seem neither vigorous nor active; both sexes are handsome when young, but the beard soon disfigures the men, and the women, as they come early to maturity, also fade very soon; females are generally married from fourteen to eighteen years of age, and many under fourteen. The people of rank here are polite and affable, making allowances for that superiority which the Mahometan religion instructs its votaries to assume over all who hold a different faith. The city is governed by a vizir bashaw, who, whilst we staid here, made his first entrance into the place, as the late bashaw was deposed and strangled by order of

the Porte, to whose command they pay a most abject submission ; and by no means act with that injustice as at Bagdad. As the bashaw of this place frequently succeeds to the grand vizirship, he finds it necessary and politic, in order to advance his interest at the Porte, to endeavour to render himself as popular as possible by his deportment in this government, which conduct seldom fails to answer his most sanguine expectations. The late bashaw, having been disappointed in his hopes, had recourse to tyranny and oppression, which behaviour created a rebellion in the place, and on a proper representation being made to the grand signior, orders were sent from Constantinople immediately to depose the bashaw ; which was accordingly done ; and he was soon after strangled.—The mosques here are numerous, and some of them exceedingly magnificent ; before each is a kind of a square court-yard, in the middle of which is a fountain for the appointed ablutions before prayers ; and behind some of the large mosques are gardens. There are also many large khans, or caravanseras, consisting of an extensive square, on all sides of which are built, on the ground floor, a number of rooms, used as warehouses. Above stairs are many small rooms, where-
in

in merchants transact most of their business. Their bread is chiefly of wheat flour, made into thin cakes, but very illy prepared, and is generally eaten as soon as it comes out of the oven. The principal people have small loaves of a finer flour, which are well fermented and baked. Besides these, there are a variety of biscuits, most of which are strewed on the top with some kind of seeds. The Europeans have very good bread, baked and prepared in the French manner. All the inhabitants, of both sexes, smoke tobacco to great excess; even the very servants have almost constantly a pipe in their mouths. Coaches or carriages are not used here, therefore persons of quality ride on horseback in the city, with a number of servants walking before them, according to their rank; ladies of the first distinction are even compelled to walk on foot in the city, or to any place at a moderate distance; in longer journeys they are carried by mules, in a kind of a couch, close covered up. There are a number of public bagnios in this city, which are used by people of all ranks, except those of the highest distinction, who commonly have baths, and every other conveniency, in their own houses.

We continued at Aleppo for the space of a month, during which time we experienced the most polite and friendly treatment imaginable, from our worthy consul's family, his brother, and the rest of our countrymen; likewise from the family of the Dutch consul, Mr. Van Mafsyk; all of whom endeavoured to render our residence here as agreeable as possible.

On Monday the 9th of June, two gentlemen of our party left this place for Latichea. One of them intended to embark for Cyprus, on his way to Constantinople, the other to get a boat in readiness for our immediate departure for Cyprus, on our arrival at Latichea. There we intended to procure, if possible, a passage on board of some neutral vessel for Europe, Cyprus being the principal sea port on this coast.

On Tuesday the 10th of June, between the hours of eleven and twelve at night, we were alarmed by some smart shocks of an earthquake. I did not hear of any other damage being done by it, than the throwing down of an uninhabited house.—On the Monday following the consul got news of some gentlemen bound to the East Indies, having freighted a vessel at Venice, and sailed from thence on the 11th of April, for Scanderoon, and as no information had been received

received respecting them since that time, it created uneasiness, for fear of their having met with some accident ; the common run at this time of the year being from thirty to thirty-five days. On the succeeding Thursday, we received advice of their safe arrival at Latichea, (they proving to be Lieutenant Luke Pocock, and Mr. Mordaunt, a gentleman in the civil service at Madras, with packets for India,) and that they would be in Aleppo on the Monday following. We had likewise the pleasure of receiving a letter from our brother traveller Burford, dated Cyprus, June 5, making a proposal to freight a small vessel, as the only possible means we had of escaping the French. This offer we gladly embraced, and letters were dispatched to the gentleman at Latichea, and Burford, requiring the former to join the latter immediately, and to submit to his judgment to do the best he could for us ; and we determined to set out as soon as possible for Latichea, on our way to Cyprus.

Sunday, June 23.

A LITTLE before sun-set, having taken leave of our worthy countrymen and friends, at Aleppo, we departed from it, accompanied by our good friend Robert Abbot, esq. and Mr. Henry

Henry Shaw, his clerk, who went with us as far as Cantamon, at which place we arrived about half past seven o'clock. Cantamon is a pleasant village, situated on the banks of a small river. We put up, for this night, at the khan, a large stone building.

Monday, June 24.

ABOUT three o'clock in the morning; having parted with Mr. Abbot, &c. we began our journey, and about six o'clock met with Messrs. Pocock and Mordaunt. We halted with them near an hour; they informed us they had packets for Bengal and Madras, and that they left England on the 26th of March. The reason they gave for having been so long on their passage from Venice, was, that the vessel they came in had been loaded with timber from Corfu, and that they were in consequence obliged to touch at that place, to deliver her cargo, which detained them upwards of a fortnight. We likewise learnt that captain Nowland, of the Bombay establishment, had embarked at Venice, on board of another vessel, for Alexandria, with a duplicate of their packet. Taking our leave of them, we proceeded on, and passed by two or three very neat villages, situated among

mong a number of well cultivated vine-yards and corn fields, with some beautiful plantations of olive trees, which were the first we had seen since our leaving Cantamon, the roads from thence to this place being quite a desert. About nine o'clock we arrived at Benish, a very pleasant village, where we halted to breakfast, and then continued our journey over some cultivated plains, and reached Reah about three o'clock in the afternoon. Reah is a pretty town, situate at the foot of a very high mountain, agreeably interspersed with some beautiful hanging gardens, and plantations of mulberry, and other fruit trees. The hedges of the gardens and other inclosures in this place and its environs, are of myrtle, which being at this season in full bloom, afforded a most agreeable odor.—We rested this night at the khan, a very convenient building. The people were this day very busy at getting in their harvest. The land appears very rich, and as far as I can judge, the occupiers have a plentiful crop of corn. Their implements of agriculture are somewhat similar to those used by Asiatics; the plough seems to be the same, and is not much unlike that used in England, for tilling hilly lands. The ploughshares in those parts of India which came under
my

my observation, are not made of iron, but of a very hard kind of wood, called the iron-tree, (with which that country, in many parts, abounds,) and the soil being of a dry, light nature, they answer the purpose very well; they are worked by oxen, and two men are stationed to hold a plough.

Tuesday, June 25.

WE left Reah about half past three o'clock in the morning, and proceeded a few miles over a level country; about day-break we came to some high hills, which we crossed, and continued travelling over high mountains, by very disagreeable roads. The valleys beneath, consisting of corn fields, and plantations of mulberry trees, (for the use of the silk-worm, with which this country abounds) afforded a most beautiful landscape; but, from the badness of the road we were travelling, personal safety demanded so much of our attention as deprived us of the pleasure we should otherwise have enjoyed from this delightful prospect. On descending these mountains we came to a building, where we were stopped by some cophars, or custom-people, and obliged to pay eight piastrs and a half, a toll exacted on all persons travelling this way.

At

At noon we came to a pretty town called Shawl, pleasantly situated at the foot of the mountains on the banks of the river Orontes, over which there is a neat stone bridge. We halted in the environs about half an hour, furnished ourselves with some excellent fruit, and then continued our journey on very dangerous roads, over hills and mountains, till four o'clock, at which time we passed a Greek village, called Ingozeek, built on the top of a high hill, which commands a fine prospect; but the place itself seems indifferently built, and the inhabitants a poor and despicable people. From this, we ascended another mountain, and had a very rugged road for about two hours, when we arrived at a plain planted entirely with mulberry trees for the use of the silk worm. At this place we tarried for the night, at the house of the silk manufacturer, but were so terribly tormented with fleas, that we could get no rest.—During our journey this day, we have met with such exceeding dangerous roads, that in many places it was with the greatest difficulty our horses passed without slipping down the mountains, in which case, we must inevitably have been dashed to pieces.

Wednesday, June 26.

By two this morning we set out, and prosecuted our journey over hills and stony roads till
about

about seven o'clock, when we crossed a very remarkable run of water, cut through a rock, over which is a wooden bridge; about an hour after this, we were stopped by some other Cophars, to whom we paid one piastre and a half. About nine o'clock we rested for an hour, under the shade of some trees, and took a little refreshment. Our small repast over, we began to ascend the steepest mountain we had yet encountered, the summit of which we gained about twelve o'clock, from whence we got sight of the Mediterranean sea, at the distance of sixteen miles from us. We soon after halted under some trees; and, having dined, again moved forward till three, when we came to a large plantation of mulberry trees, at the distance of four miles from Latichea, where we staid till the excessive heat was abated, and then set out again, stopping for a few minutes to view a pleasant house belonging to the English agent. We arrived about half past six, at the house of Mr. Sciperas, in Latichea, who gave us a genteel reception, and informed us that our companion left this place only two days before we arrived, having been detained by contrary winds.

LATICHEA is a small, neat, sea-port town, in Syria, and would be a flourishing place, but for the rigour of its government, vessels often coming

ing here from all parts of Europe to unload their cargoes for Aleppo, which are sent from this place to that on camels.—The town stands on a flat, fruitful plain, in a very delightful country, and hath a capacious harbour. The adjacent country, and most of that through which we have passed on our journey from Aleppo hither, hath formed some of the most romantic views that can possibly be described, consisting in many places of high hills covered with myrtle, steep precipices, natural cascades, well cultivated vallies, crowned with the gifts of Ceres, beautiful fruit gardens, and plantations of mulberry trees for the silk-worms, with villages scattered here and there, the whole so beautifully disposed by Nature, as to present one of the most luxuriant vistas which the warm imagination of a writer of romance could draw; and what appears a fiction in some of those writers, is here in many respects verified. From such a description this might well be supposed a desirable place of residence; but, from the bad regulation of its police, it is at present but thinly inhabited. This, however, is one of the most considerable places on the coast for trade; it is subject to the jurisdiction of the bashaw of Syria, who does not constantly reside here, but gene-

rally comes once a year to collect his revenues, at which time he is sure to extort large sums of money from the poor inhabitants subjects of the Porte; and as the Turk who governs in his absence follows his example, they are generally in a miserable situation. This bashaw likewise commands the guards that attend the caravan of pilgrims yearly to Mecca, and by this amasses great wealth, from the presents made him by the devotees who visit the tomb of the prophet Mahomet. The number of European gentlemen residing here, do not exceed three, belonging to the different nations, of which Mr. Boddington, the English agent, is the principal; the agents or vice consuls, for the other nations, excepting the French, are Greeks, and Mr. Sciperas is the factor for most of the European merchants, who live at Aleppo.

Friday, June 28.

HAVING procured a convenient boat to carry us over to Cyprus, we embarked this evening, and on the morning of the 29th got under way, and sailed out of the harbour; by noon we were in sight of the island of Cyprus, but the wind proving contrary, we were driven to the leeward of it, which obliged us to keep beating to windward

ward the whole day, during which time several vessels passed us, bound for Latichea and the Syrian coast.

CYPRUS. *June 30.*

ABOUT sun-set we anchored off the town of Famagusta, formerly the capital of this island, when the Venetians had the possession of it, at which period it was a most beautiful flourishing city, and remarkable for its stately cathedral church, which at present is made use of as a Turkish mosque. The fortifications were certainly very strong and extensive, and maintained a siege of six months before the town surrendered to the Turks, who although it capitulated with the honours of war, cruelly caused the governor to be fled alive, and put the rest of the inhabitants to the sword.

This beautiful place, once so much admired, is now entirely neglected; its stately edifices are all in ruins, and inhabited by Greeks. The Turkish governor has his seat at the city of Nicosia, (now the metropolis) in the middle of the country. The European merchants who reside on this island, live at Larnica, a town about twenty miles distant from hence, which has a more convenient harbour, and is consequently better situated for traffic.

Thursday, July 1.

IN the evening we weighed anchor, and sailed for Larnica, and arrived about noon of the 2d at the Marine, a mile distant from the town; we went immediately on shore, and being conducted to the consular-house, found Mr. Burford in a very indifferent state of health, and likewise learned that the consul Mr. Devezin, had been seized that morning with a violent fever. He, however, soon came out to receive us, and gave us as kind and genteel a reception, as could be expected from a person in his situation, and we were all accommodated with lodgings at his house.

In the evening we paid a visit to Mr. Rizzini, a merchant of this place, and brother to the Venetian consul of Aleppo, and also to the lady of the latter, who lives at present at the house of her brother Mr. Capara the Venetian pro-consul. We met with a very polite reception, and found the lady sensible and accomplished; she was very agreeable in her person, but being an Italian, and of French education, she was very partial to their manners.

Saturday, July 3.

WE fet a-part this day to view the town, which consists of regular streets and fine houses, belonging

belonging to the consuls and merchants of different nations, and to the principal Greeks. Few of the Turks live in the town. It is by no means healthily situated, being surrounded by low lands and salt marshes, which considerably infect the air ; these added to the heat of the climate, in the summer season, subject the inhabitants to continual fevers, that carry numbers of them off. Most part of the inhabitants of the island are Greeks, the lower class of whom are generally employed in tilling land, and dressing the vine-yards. The island produces great quantities of grapes, from which excellent wine is made, and sent to all parts of Europe. Great quantities of cotton are likewise cultivated here, which appears of a much finer quality than any I have ever seen in India. In short, the soil is exceedingly luxuriant, and the farmers would be immensely rich, but for the heavy taxes levied by the Porte, and the rapaciousness of the Turkish governors, who are continually plundering them, till they have reduced them to a state of wretched poverty. Our time, for about ten days, was spent in one continued scene of gaiety and amusement, at the different villas of the European gentlemen ; but we now began to find our healths much impaired by the un-

wholesomeness of the climate, and every one of us were seized with a violent fever, which had such an effect on the head as to render us almost distracted. The doctors advising a change of air, we removed to a country house belonging to the Venetian consul, ten miles from Larnica, where we remained a few days, when, finding ourselves getting worse, we were obliged to return to the town for assistance. Every medical attempt to establish our health proving fruitless, it became necessary for us to leave the island as fast as possible, but a French frigate coming into the harbour, we were obliged to be very cautious about the mode of our departure, for fear of being made prisoners. We agreed with the captain of a Slavonian vessel, bound to Venice, for the cabin of his ship, for which we were to pay sixty pounds sterling, which, though exorbitant, we joyfully gave. The French frigate sailing the next day for Acria, we shipped on board a proper quantity of provisions, and taking leave of our good and generous friends, who had shewn us so much civility during our stay on the island,—on the 22d, in the evening, we embarked on board the vessel, in very infirm states of health, and early the next morning sailed out of harbour. Our situation on board was

truly

truly deplorable ; we found a very dirty vessel, and so crouded with cotton bales upon deck, that we had not room to move ourselves ; and to compleat our misfortune the captain and crew spoke a language we did not understand.

The island of Cyprus is situated on the most easterly part of the Mediterranean, sixty miles south of the coast of Caramania, and thirty west of Syria ; and is supposed to have taken its name from the great number of Cyprus trees growing in the country. Its circumference is about 250 miles. The air of this country is for the most part hot and there are but few springs or rivers in the island, so that if the rains do not fall plentifully at the usual seasons, the inhabitants are much distressed by the scarcity of water. Ancient tradition says, the whole island was consecrated to Venus, and she is represented by the poets as taking a particular pleasure in visiting this country, and to have holden her court there. Be this as it may, very few of her representatives are there to be found at present. This island was conquered by Richard I. king of England, on his way to the Holy Land. The trade is considerable ; their chief commodities, besides wine, are oil, cotton, salt, silk, and turpentine.—For some days past nothing

particular has transpired. On the 28th we found we had compleatly weathered the island, and lost sight of land.

Thursday, July 29.

WE made land, which is supposed to be the island of Rhodes. Five vessels in sight.

Friday, July 30.

A brisk breeze springing up, whereby we ran about ten miles an hour, and had nearly weathered the land, when unfortunately about noon it fell calm.

Saturday, July 31.

WE found this morning we were under a mistake, as the land we made the 29th was part of the coast of Caraminia, and not the island of Rhodes, as at first imagined.—Seven vessels in sight, the largest of which had the appearance of a French frigate, with her convoy, which rather alarmed us, but as she kept her course, and took no notice of us, it gave us reason to believe we were wrong in our first conjecture of them.—Becalmed most part of this day.—About sun-set the island of Rhodes in sight.

Sunday,

Sunday, August 1.

BECALMED all this day.—In sight the large ship and her convoy, which we now supposed to be the Tartar privateer, capt. Smith, and her prize.—Our healths were still much impaired, owing as well to the disagreeable situation of the ship as the want of exercise.

Monday, August 2.

A LARGE ship passed us. Becalmed for several hours this day. In tacking, this afternoon, we split the fore-sail, by which misfortune we made very little way. Got a square rigged sail to the mast,

Tuesday, August 3.

AT four A. M. we anchored in the harbour of Rhodes, which we found full of ships; many of the French were laid up for fear of our privateers. Several of the grand signior's ships of war were in the harbour, and two large ships on the stocks.

RHODES, the chief town or city of the same name stands partly on the side of a hill, fronting the sea, and is three miles in circumference. From the harbour, the town appears to the greatest advantage, being interspersed with beautiful

tiful gardens, minarets, churches, and towers. It was formerly subject to the knights of Malta, who maintained there a memorable siege against the Turks, to whom they were obliged at last to surrender it. The town is considered of very great note from its being the grand signior's principal arsenal for shipping. The inhabitants (properly so called) are only Turks and Jews, for as to the Christians, though they are permitted to have shops within the walls, and to come thither and follow their businesses, in the day time, they are compelled to retire every night to their respective habitations without the city. The inhabitants are cruelly used by the bashaw, who plunders them of the best part of their property, and also obliges them to work on the shipping without pay, all their perquisites being the few chips that are left.—The city is very large, and in the time of the Maltese must have been very populous; but it is now scarcely inhabited, owing to the impolitic and tyrannical government exercised over it. The fortifications at Rhodes have been very considerable, it being defended by three walls and as many ditches, and is esteemed among the strongest fortresses in the Turkish dominions; there are now some large cannon and mortars mounted

mounted upon the walls, but through the negligence and indolence of the Turks they are much decayed. The streets are regular, strait, and well paved, and in the middle of the largest there is a pavement of white marble, which reacheth from one end of it to the other. In this street the knights of Malta are supposed to have resided ; several of their coats of arms being still visible in the walls of the houses, which are yet handsome buildings, though much declined from their ancient splendour. The palace of the grand master is at the upper end of the street, now the residence of the bashaw. The magnificent churches are now turned into mosques. At the mouth of the harbour, which is said to be fifty fathoms over, was erected the famous Colloßus, or statue of Apollo, reckoned one of the wonders of the world. It was seventy cubits, or one hundred and five feet high, and between its legs ships under sail passed in and out of the harbour ; this wondrous piece of art, in less than sixty years after its completion, was thrown down and demolished by an earthquake. The air of Rhodes is reckoned very healthful, and the country is exceedingly pleasant, cloathed with trees and herbage almost continually green. The country affords every thing

thing necessary for the support of its inhabitants, and plenty of those things which render life agreeable. It is remarkable for the fertility of its soil, producing the best wines, and all sorts of delicious fruits; very little corn is grown on this island, they being conveniently supplied therewith from the continent. Rhodes is one of the most considerable islands in the eastern part of the Mediterranean; it is sixty miles in length from North to South, and about thirty in breadth. The celebrated Rhodian laws, for the regulation of navigation and commerce, by which maritime causes were decided in all the provinces of the Roman empire, were first instituted at this place.—Here we received the first intelligence of the war between England and Spain. I cannot omit relating a circumstance that happened to part of the crew belonging to an English privateer, who were sent into this place with a prize. The French consul caused it to be insinuated to the bashaw that they were pirates, on which account the poor creatures were near being ordered to the gallies for life; but fortunately for them, the Venetian consul, (we having none here) hearing of their distress, received them into his protection, and so effectually exerted himself in their behalf, that the bashaw

shaw was at last convinced of their innocence, and that he had been egregiously duped and imposed on. He therefore ordered them to be immediately set at liberty; and severely reprimanded the French consul. The whole of this affair having been represented to the English ambassador at Constantinople, his excellency was pleased to return the Venetian consul his thanks for his spirited conduct; and likewise promised to recommend him to the Turkey company, as worthy further marks of their favour.

Wednesday, August 4.

OUR vessel sailed out of the harbour of Rhodes. The 5th, 6th, and 7th instant the wind proving contrary, we were obliged to remain at anchor under the island.

Sunday, August 8.

THE wind shifting more favourably for us, we weighed, and by noon made the island of Scarponto. On the 9th we saw the island of Candia, on our starboard bow. On 10th at day-light we perceived a sail, which stood towards us under French colours. This greatly alarmed us, as we took her to be either a French privateer.

privateer or frigate, if the former we were certain of being plundered of every thing we had, besides meeting with very indifferent treatment. We were, however, soon eased of our apprehensions, for coming within hail, she struck her French colours, hoisted English ones, and fired a gun to leeward, proving to be the Tartar privateer, captain Smith, from Liverpool, but last from Smyrna, where he had gained great honour in an engagement with some French vessels. We sent our boat on board, with the captain's papers for examination. Captain Smith hearing from the boat's crew of our being on board the Venetian vessel, came to visit us, and informed us of the capture of an English frigate by two French 64 gun ships, off Gibraltar Gut. After passing mutual civilities, we took our leave, the Tartar proceeding on her cruize, and we on our voyage.—From this day to the 12th we kept beating to windward off the island of Candia, without the least effect ; finding the current set so strong against us, as to oblige us to tack about, stand back again, and attempt to weather the other side of the island. On the 15th the wind proving fair for us, we made considerable way, and by noon compleatly weathered the point.—This island is one of the largest in the Mediterranean,

Mediterranean, was anciently called Crete, once famous for its hundred cities, but is at present a place of inconsiderable note : It lies on the coast of Greece ; is seventy miles in extent ; was formerly subject to the Venetians, who maintained a long siege, (and at last capitulated with all the honours of war) against the Turks, to whom it is now subject. Mount Ida, so famous 'mongst the poets of antiquity, is situated in the middle of this island.

Thursday, August 19.

ON this morning we found ourselves off cape Meliche, which we passed ; and on the 20th, about one P. M. we saw the island of Sericote, and by sun-set that of Serigo ; both which islands belong to the republic of Venice, and are the extent of their territories in the Levant seas ; the former of them is made use of as a place of exile for offenders against the Republic, whose crimes are not of so atrocious a nature as to merit death ; the place being little better than a barren rock. The latter is about twenty miles in circumference, and is under the jurisdiction of a governor appointed from Venice. At these islands commenceth the quarantine laid on all ships coming from Turkey.

Saturday,

Saturday, August 21.

AT sun-rise we saw the Morea, (or the continent of Albany) subject to the Grand Signior, but the inhabitants are a brave set of people, descended from the ancient Greeks, and do not tamely submit to the Turkish yoke, but are in continual rebellion. This obliges the Porte to keep a formidable army in those parts, under the command of a captain bashaw.—Three ships in sight, one of which passed us, and hoisted Dutch colours.

Sunday, August 22.

HAVING lost sight of the island of Senigo, we were becalmed in a bay opposite to a number of small towns, built on the side of a barren hill, belonging to the Greeks. The inhabitants of these towns are a very cruel and mischievous race, and are continually at war, one with another.

Monday, August 23.

WE passed by two large fortified towns belonging to the Turks, which, we are informed, were taken by the Russians in the late war, but were restored to the Porte, by the last treaty of peace with the Empress. They appear very populous, and to have convenient harbours, as
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we observed several ships of burthen lying at anchor in the roads, from which I presume a great trade is carried on.—This night attempting to weather a small island, we had nearly run a-shore.

Tuesday, August 24.

SAW the island of Zante, on our larboard bow, but, owing to contrary winds, we were unable to make the harbour this day.

Wednesday, August 25.

AT four A. M. we anchored in the roads of Zante, and found riding there the Venetian Admiral and his fleet, with other foreign vessels. At sun-rise we saluted the Admiral with five guns, which he returned with three. Finding (owing to the dirtiness of the vessel) our health very little better than while at Rhodes, and one of the party being thought in danger of his life, it was resolved to proceed no further in this vessel, but to remain on the island, and perform part of our quarantine. I accordingly addressed the following letter to the British consul, and sent it by the captain, who was obliged to attend the health-office with our bills of health.

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SIR,

SIR,

I HAVE, with two English gentlemen from the East-Indies, but last from Cyprus, on our way to England, arrived in this port this morning, on board a Sclavonian vessel, named the *Madonna del Rosario*, bound for Venice. Being in a very poor state of health, we have determined to perform part of our quarantine on your island, and then endeavour to procure a passage from hence in some vessel to Ancona, or any part of Italy that may offer, and which may seem most convenient to us. What I have to beg of you, Sir, is to obtain such orders as may appear to you necessary for our reception into the Lazaretto; and as our letters of credit are on Venice, I have to request of you, to procure me, for my bills on that place, such cash as I may have occasion for. Proper vouchers from Mr. Charles Smith, merchant, of Aleppo, who has remitted our money to Signior Sebastian Battagia, of Venice, will be ready to be produced for your satisfaction whenever required. Flattering myself you will pardon the liberty I have taken,

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

With great respect, Sir,

John Sargint, Esq.

Your's, &c.

Zante.

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In about two hours the captain returned with an answer from the consul much to our satisfaction. The consul requesting one of us to come on shore to adjust matters at the health-office, I immediately attended, and found the vice-consul waiting to receive me. I made him acquainted with our situation, and our wish to perform part of our quarantine. He told me, that Mr. Peter Sargint, son to the consul, would presently attend me; and likewise informed me, that a gentleman from India was at present on the island, he having arrived about a month before us, from Alexandria. This gentleman I had a distant knowledge of; he was last from Bengal, and had been very near as long as myself in coming over. From him I learned, to my great regret, the news of the failure of an expedition against the Marhattas, and the death of several officers with whom I was very intimate.

Mr. Peter Sargint coming in, made me a polite apology for his father's not attending, on account of his advanced years. Every thing was soon settled for us to come on shore, and commence our quarantine that day. During the whole of our conversation, we were separated from each other by a wooden bar, and]

great care was taken by the guards belonging to the health-office, to prevent our touching each other. Taking my leave of the gentlemen, I returned on board, and acquainted my companions with the result of my conversation, &c. on shore.

Having settled our accounts with the captain of our vessel, we this afternoon, about four o'clock, left the ship, with our servants and baggage, and were received by Mr. Foresti, the English vice-consul, who conducted us to a very good house opposite to the health-office, which he had interest enough to obtain for us, to remain in during our quarantine, the Lazarétto being very unhealthy, and in other respects unfit for any gentleman to live in. Shortly after our arrival, we were visited by the worthy old consul, his two sons, and the gentleman before-mentioned. All of whom offered us every service in their power. The consul now agreed to advance me whatever money I might have occasion for, on my credit on Mr. Battagia, of Venice, at a discount of five *per cent.* This I at first thought exorbitant, but when the unsettled situation of the times was considered, and the trouble he would have to insure his money from Venice to Zante, it may be reasonable enough

enough. The vice-consul undertook to supply us with necessaries during our confinement; and we were likewise given to understand, that matters might be accommodated with the magistrates of the health-office, to shorten very much the continuation of it.

I now plainly perceived that the quarantine at this place is insisted on solely for sinister views, and to put money into the pockets of individuals; for though in public they keep up a shew of severity, yet in private they make no ceremony of mixing in company with you.

On the 26th instant our vessel sailed for Venice, and I embraced the opportunity of writing by her to Mr. Battagia, acquainting him of our remaining here, and that I should draw on him, in favour of consul Sargint, for such money as occasions might require.

After having been some days here, I consulted the vice-consul respecting the proper means to be used for lessening the time of our quarantine, which was fixed for twenty-eight days; I told him we were ready to make them any reasonable recompence, but would by no means agree to extravagant terms. At first their demands were very high, no less a sum than would amount to 50l. sterling, which we refu-

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[sing to give, and being determined to remain the whole time, rather than comply with their exorbitant demands, they thought proper to fall to about 16l. sterling, exclusive of the expences of the guards and bills of health, (amounting to near five guineas more) which we agreed to give them; and, on the 6th of September, we were conducted to the Lazaretto, in a boat, attended by our vice-consul, and received a discharge, by having it certified, on the oath of the keeper of the Lazaretto, that we had remained there twenty-eight days, in close quarantine, and no symptoms of the plague having appeared during that period, they had discharged us. This ceremony being performed, we were at liberty to walk about the town and island, though we had staid in the house only eleven days.—A little distance from the Lazaretto, we had an exceeding good dinner provided for us, at a convent of capachins, to whom it was necessary we should present five sequins, it being always customary on these days. On our return we were taken to the house of the vice-consul, and were very politely received by his wife, an amiable Grecian lady, he being himself of Greek extraction. Here we were to remain during our residence on the island. We then visited the consul, from whom we received a
 very

very hearty welcome, with repeated offers of services. He is established here as a merchant, in partnership with his brother-in-law, the consul for Holland, and I am informed they carry on a very extensive trade, with most parts of Europe, especially with England, most of our ships being consigned to their houses.

On the 8th of September the gentleman from India whom we found here, embarked on board a Dutch ship, bound for Holland intending to cross over from thence to England.

During my residence at this place, I have had repeated opportunities of viewing the town and island, which is certainly a delightful spot. The town is of a considerable length, built at the foot of a large hill close to the water; the citadel is erected on the top of this eminence, and has a surprising command of the town and harbour, but it is now little better than a heap of ruins; its extent may be about a mile; the situation of it is so strong by nature, that was it well defended, and in good repair, the taking of it would be next to an impossibility; it is plentifully supplied with excellent water within its walls. The palace of the providitore is in the castle, and was reparing for the reception of a new governor, the old one having resided in the

town. The Venetians have a garrison on the island of about 500 men, but their chief dependence is on their fleet, and the island of Corfu, but should the fleet and that island be once overcome, they would very soon lose all their possessions in the Levant.

From the fort you have a view for upwards of twenty miles, of one of the finest cultivated vallies I ever saw, most delightfully interspersed with the country seats belonging to the different noblemen and gentlemen of the place. Though this island is but small, it produces every luxury of life, and so great a trade is carried on in currants, which is its principal commodity, that most of the countries in Europe are served from hence. The currants are cultivated in a large plain under the shelter of mountains, on the shore of the island, on which account the sun has greater power on them, and brings them sooner to perfection; great care is taken in drying them to prevent their getting the least wet, as should that happen, the crop is said to be entirely spoiled, and unfit for market. This island also produces the finest peaches in the world, and great quantities of grapes, from which most excellent wine is made, and transported to different nations. In short, Zante would

would be a little Paradise, producing every thing wished for, were not its inhabitants much in want of fuel, wood being a very scarce article, though the island is said to have been formerly full of forests. In the town are several very elegant Greek churches, in which are to be found some admirable paintings. The streets are of tolerable length, exceedingly clean, and the houses are neatly built. The island contains upwards of 30,000 inhabitants, the most of whom are Greeks, (though the Venetians have endeavoured to introduce the rites of the Romish church) all subjects of the Serene Republic of Venice. They are in general a friendly set of people, to strangers. The ladies are remarkably handsome in their persons, and very free of their favours, but, at the same time, prone to jealousy and revenge, on which account 'tis dangerous to have many amorous connections, it being no uncommon thing, on such occasions, to be beset by assassins, who are hired on purpose by the offended party, and 'tis very rarely you can escape. The lower class of people are industrious, but through a neglect in the government, they are often hired on the occasions mentioned above. On a murder being committed, the affair is easily accommodated

modated by a present to the governor. What a reflection is this on a civilized nation ; to suffer such horrid crimes to be committed with impunity under their jurisdiction ! The governor, who is always a nobleman of Venice, holds this post for two years only. I cannot omit relating an anecdote of a former governor of this place, who was remarkable for the severity of his punishments : “ Two noblemen of Zante having a dispute about a lady, one of them was instigated by her to hire a man to assassinate the other, which being done, and the murderer taken, was (notwithstanding every interest used in his behalf) ordered to be shot : The day previous to the sentence being executed, his employer having with great difficulty obtained a private audience with the governor, and finding him deaf to all his entreaties, he asked him If the doge of Venice was to desire him to spare the culprit’s life, whether he would then do it ? On receiving for answer, that the doge was his master, consequently might command him ; the other immediately emptied a large purse of sequins on the table, (the Venetian sequins being struck with the doge’s head) and addressed the governor in these words : Behold how many doges now supplicate you ; can you withstand them ?

them? The governor very readily admitted, that their influence overpowered the justice of the case; and instantly signed the malefactor's pardon."

I had the curiosity to go twenty miles into the country, to see two springs which issue from the earth, of a liquid matter much resembling tar; the water is very cool, and well tasted, though you continually see the tar working up to the surface. I am convinced, were these springs properly worked, they would yield the republic an immense profit; and that they are well worthy a philosophical enquiry.—The government of the island is immediately under the jurisdiction of the general of Corfu, to whom all appeals are made.

Having remained here near a month, and the season advancing apace, we began to think it high time to proceed on our voyage. One of our party took his passage on board of a Sweed, bound to Hambourgh. I and my remaining companion, through the assistance of our good friend the consul, hired a small boat to carry us from hence to Otranto, but first to stop at Corfu, to renew our bills of health, which is absolutely necessary.

Tuesday,

Tuesday, September 21.

HAVING adjusted our little concerns, and taken leave of friends, (some of whom I must confess I quitted with regret) we, at two o'clock this morning embarked, and proceeded on our voyage to Corfu. We passed the island of Cephalonia, which belongs to the Venetians; but towards the evening, the wind being high, attended with rain, thunder, and lightening, we were obliged to tack, and put into the island of Itheca, or (as its now called) Little Cephalonia, where we were compelled to remain two days, the weather continuing very tempestuous. Our situation was very disagreeable, being in an open boat, with nothing to defend us from the storm but a woollen covering hung across it, the people not suffering us to lie on shore, for fear of having their boat plundered. This island is reported to have been part of the kingdom of Ulysses, and the residence of Penelope; but, however this may have been, it is at present little better than a barren rock, and is inhabited only by a few poor Greeks, who are employed in cultivating of vines. It is subordinate to the governor of Cephalonia; and has a tolerable bay, well defended from the Monsoons, which at particular seasons of the year, blow very
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severe in those parts, and make it very dangerous for ships lying in the roads of Zante at those periods.

Thursday, September 23.

THE sea being tolerably calm, we hoisted sail, and proceeding on, passed by some beautiful little islands inhabited by Greeks, we arrived about sun-set at Santa Maura, an island likewise subject to the Venetians, who have some very considerable salt-pits there, with the produce of which they carry on a great trade to the continent of Albany. At this place we were under the necessity of producing our bills of health. Our boat being detained here all night, by order of the governor, I went on shore the next morning to know the reason of such treatment; when I was informed we were to take on board an officer belonging to the governor for Corfu. I instantly sent to acquaint his excellency, that I and my companion were subjects of his Britannick Majesty; and that, as we had freighted the boat for our own conveniency, we would not suffer any one to come on board; also that I should complain to the general, on our arrival at Corfu. His excellency sent me a polite apology, with an invitation to his palace, informed
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me he had been led into an error as to our freighting the boat, and immediately gave orders for our being suffered to depart, but at the same time intimated, that our receiving the officer on board would be an obligation conferred on him. I told him that what I had refused as a command, I was now willing to grant as a request, and that I had not the least doubt but my companion would very willingly give his concurrence.

The town of Santa Maura has a mean appearance, but seems to have a tolerable fort, and a very handsome bridge over two points of land that divide the channel from the main ocean. After breakfast I took leave of the governor, and, accompanied by the Venetian officer, went on board the boat, which was got directly under sail, but we found the water in the channel so shallow, that in several places we were obliged to shift all our luggage into a smaller boat, notwithstanding which it was forced, with great difficulty over the sands. After about two hours trouble we made the straits, and luckily, a brisk breeze springing up, we crossed it in about two hours more, and arrived at a pretty town called Pevereze, subject to the Venetians, built close by the water side, on the
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main continent of Albany. We went on shore, and were conducted by the Venetian officer to the house of one of his acquaintances, where we were civilly entertained. This town is under the jurisdiction of Santa Maura. The Venetians have no fort here, the town being flockaded all round. Its inhabitants are mostly Greeks, and the military force does not exceed one hundred. By contrary winds we were detained here all day.

Saturday, September 25.

ABOUT one this morning the wind proving fair, we repaired on board our boat, got under sail, and proceeded on till about two o'clock in the afternoon, when we halted at a fort belonging to the Venetians, called Parva, on the continent of Albany, built on the summit of a very high hill, the ascent to which is exceedingly troublesome. Here we were very civilly treated by the governor, a nobleman of Corfu. We left this place in the middle of the night, and arrived at Corfu by noon of the 26th.

CORFU.—On sending our bills of health to the magistrates of the health office, we were permitted to land, and having presented a letter of recommendation from our friend consul Sargint,

gint, at Zante, to his vice-consul at this place, we were, through his interest, accommodated with a genteel lodging at a good coffee-house. Soon after our arrival we were waited on by a Venetian officer, to whom I had a letter from the vice-consul of Zante; by him we were conducted to view the fortifications, which are undoubtedly very strong and extensive, but they do not appear to me sufficiently garrisoned, their garrison at present consisting of about 10,000 men. A number of very excellent brass and iron cannon are mounted on the different forts, which are so divided, that it would take treble the number of their garrison to defend them. However, the republic of Venice is generally at peace with the different European nations, and the ancient power of the Turks being much decayed, they have little to apprehend, though they were a good deal alarmed at the late appearance of the captain bashaw in the Morea, with a considerable army; but it is to be supposed it was with no hostile intention against the Republic, the Porte having sent that army merely with a view to reduce the rebellious Albanese to subjection, which the bashaw in a great measure accomplished. But to prevent any sudden surprize, the Venetians keep a formidable

midable squadron in the harbour of Corfu, and a tolerable garrison. The works have been much improved by Major General Paterfon.

In the late war they had with the Turks, this town was attacked by an army of 80,000 men, and attempted to be stormed several times, by the enemy, but the garrison, which consisted of 12,000 men, under the command of count Schulenburg, made so brave and gallant a defence, that they always repulsed them, and obliged them to raise the siege, and abandon the place with considerable loss. For this piece of service the republic has caused a magnificent statue to be erected in memory of the count, with an elegant Latin inscription, setting forth the many eminent services of his military achievements. The circumference of the city is about four miles; the number of inhabitants on the whole island are computed at about 50,000, the greatest part of whom are Greeks.

This island is the residence of the governor-general, whose jurisdiction extends over all the islands subject to the republic of Venice, in the Levant seas, and is considered as one of the greatest honours they can confer on a subject. He is always a nobleman of the first rank, and has his appointment for three years only, in
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which time he makes a tolerable addition to his fortune, and on his return to Venice, is generally advanced to the honours of the senate. In the city are many handsome Greek churches, the principal of which is that of St. Speridione, or the cathedral: It is embellished with some excellent paintings, and most superbly ornamented. The body of the Saint from whom it was named, is preserved entire in a rich shrine within the church. The Greeks are most of them such fanaticks as to be continually offering their devotions at this shrine, believing that through the intercession of the Saint, they will obtain all their wants; and that by offerings of money their sins will be forgiven them, by which means the church has amassed an immense treasure; but should the republic of Venice be ever engaged in a war, I presume they will not hesitate at making use of it.

On the 29th we paid our respects to the governor-general, who received us in a very affable manner, and ordered the necessary passports to be furnished us. The same day, through the interest of our consul, we obtained permission from the Greek patriarch to view the relict of the Saint, which is deposited in a silver coffin, richly decorated with precious stones. It is in
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an amazing state of preservation; he having died, on the island of Cyprus, upwards of 700 years ago, and after remaining 400 years there, was transported to this place.

Besides the grand fleet, the Venetians have another of gallies, that are mann'd by convicts, whose crimes are not of such a nature as to merit death. Those poor wretched are all chained to their respective oars, to the number of 100 in each vessel. They are a set of the most miserable wretches I ever beheld, some of them are condemned to this punishment for life, others for a certain number of years, according to the magnitude of their crimes. Each galley is commanded by a young nobleman, who in process of time is advanced higher.

The chief diversions of this place in the winter are operas, they have always a company of comedians for the season from Naples. In the summer they pass their time in walking upon the ramparts; few except the governor and great officers of state are permitted to keep carriages. The Corfu people perfectly resemble the Zanteots in their manners, though it must be observed, in praise of the former, that assassinations are uncommon among them, their laws being too severe to permit such practices with impunity.

Having sufficiently refreshed ourselves, we, on Thursday the 30th, in the morning, departed for Otranto, but the wind proving unfavourable, we were necessitated to come to anchor in a small cove for the night.

On Friday, October 1, proceeded on again, but the wind still continuing against us, attended with rain, and every other symptom of an approaching storm, our boatmen thought it prudent to put into a small island, about twenty miles distant from Corfu, which they call'd Fan-nu. This little island is very mountainous, but there are some beautifully cultivated spots on the tops of the hills; its inhabitants are all Greeks, subject to the republic of Venice. Here we were obliged to remain six days, and had our boat drawn on shore, from an apprehension that the violence of the waves would have dashed her to pieces against the rocks. The generality of the few inhabitants of this island, appeared to be an honest industrious set of people. The weather clearing up on the morning of the 6th, we set out for Otranto, and being favoured with a brisk breeze, we crossed the channel in a few hours, and arrived about three in the afternoon in the roads of Otranto.

OTRANTO.

O T R A N T O.

OUR boats coming to anchor, information was immediately given to the deputies of the health office, who in about half an hour attended, with a doctor to examine us, and desired us to come on shore, to the office, which stands close to the beach. On our arrival, we were conducted into a room so full of smoak, occasioned by a fire made with straw, that we were almost suffocated, which we were informed, was to take off any infectious smell that might issue either from our persons or cloathes; a man was likewise placed between us and the people, with a long stick to prevent our too near approach. The bills of health and letters for this place were then demanded of us, which we placed at the end of a cleft stick, held by one of the deputies for that purpose, who conveyed them by that means over the fire, where they were suspended a considerable time, and afterwards examined; they then interrogated the boatmen, as to the ports we had touched at last, swearing them to the truth on a stick made in the form of a cross, the usual way in those places of administering an oath to a Greek, as they will not suffer them to touch a book, for fear of infection. The next ceremony was the
doctor's

doctor's examining the people, by ordering them to beat themselves in different parts of the body, which being done, our parole of honour was demanded to the following queries :

Firstly, Whether we had touched at any ports in Turkey, since we left Corfu ?

Secondly, Whether we laboured under any pestilential disorder ? And,

Thirdly, If we were in perfect health ?

Having answered these questions in the negative, we were permitted to perform the accustomed quarantine at this port, which we were told would be twenty-eight days. The fees of office were now demanded by the deputies, which amounted to five Venetian sequins ; and, there being no Lazaretto here, a house was ordered for us, at the distance of a mile from the city, to which place we were conducted by the deputies, attended by two men as guards, to prevent us from stirring out before the expiration of the quarantine, unless attended by one of the deputies, which is a favour very seldom granted, without they are well paid for it ; but as we came prepared for every thing of this kind, we had not the least doubt but we should prevail on them to grant us every indulgence in their power ; but so severe are their laws

laws against a breach of the rules of quarantine, that any person so offending, is liable to be put to death by the first person who meets him; and, indeed, this severity is not to be wondered at, when it is considered how much Italy has suffered by that dreadful malady, the plague. The several letters of recommendation we had brought with us, to some of the principal inhabitants, having been properly smocked by the deputies and delivered, we were presently waited on by the gentlemen to whom they were addressed, who very civilly offered us their services; and in Signor Fedelle Massari, a merchant, of this place, we found a friend, who kindly undertook to transact all our affairs, and to supply us with every necessary we might want during our confinement; and, through this friend's interest with the governor, we were ordered to be removed to a larger house, which had a tolerable garden, and was pleasantly situated close to the sea; this undoubtedly rendered our situation much more comfortable, particularly the having a place to walk about in. His excellency the arch-bishop of Otranto, to whom we were well recommended, being absent on a visit at Lece, a city within his diocese, about thirty miles from hence, we were the day after our arrival visited by

by his reverend vicar-general, who in his name, welcomed us to Otranto, and politely offered to supply us with every thing from the palace of the arch-bishop, to whom he had sent the letters we brought. The same day we received a letter from his excellency, informing us of the receipt of ours; and expressing much concern at his absence from Otranto; but hoped he should be able to return by the expiration of our quarantine, that he might have the pleasure of receiving us at his palace; and in the mean time, desired us to make no ceremony of sending for every thing we might want from thence, he having ordered the steward of his household to attend us daily to receive our orders. Such a piece of condescension from a man of his rank and quality, was of the most infinite service to us, as it made the deputies, who were a needy marquis and a citizen of Otranto, and likewise the guards, pay no small attention to our requests, and in some measure prevented their extorting money from us for their indulgencies.

A few days after our arrival, news being received of the plague having broke out in Smyrna, occasioned an order from Naples to advance our quarantine to forty days, whereupon we immediately applied by letter to the British minister

ster at that court, in hopes, on his application, to be excluded from the late order, but received] for answer, That every exertion had been made by his excellency on our behalf without the desired effect, as the court of Naples was resolved to grant no indulgencies of the kind; and the only favour that could be obtained, was an order to the deputies to afford us every convenience the being in quarantine would admit of.

Thus situated, we were obliged to submit, and patiently wait the expiration of the forty days. If either of us had unfortunately fallen sick during that time, we must have remained eighty days longer.—I cannot but acknowledge that our time passed much more agreeably than we at first expected, being continually visited by the principal people, who were generally permitted to drink tea and coffee with us, one of the deputies being always present, to prevent our approaching too close. This behaviour of the deputies may appear strange, but I believe they held it as a maxim, that the plague could not affect money or drink, for I never found them backward in receiving either. With these parties, towards the conclusion of our quarantine, we were indulged with the liberty of walking into the country, attended by one of the

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deputies, and the guards, to keep us at a proper distance, and to prevent the too near approach of strangers.

About a week before the expiration of our quarantine, his excellency the arch-bishop arrived from Lece, and the next day honoured us with a visit, and politely insisted on our taking up our residence at his palace, on being discharged from our present situation, and pressed us to continue with him all the winter; but, as our wish was to get forward as fast as possible for England, we declined his last hospitable offer.

Thursday, December 16.

Our quarantine this day ending, we were visited early in the morning by the two deputies, and the doctor, who having examined us by feeling our pulses, and under our arms, pronounced us free of all pestilentious disorders. They then informed us, we were at liberty to quit our present habitation, and remove into the city, after we had paid the usual fees, amounting, in the whole, to about 9l. 18s. 6d.

The archbishop's servants being sent to remove our baggage to the palace, we were conducted thither, and received by the arch-bishop and vicar-general, in the most friendly manner,
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and led to appartments prepared for us: We remained with the archbishop a week, during which time we experienced every indulgence. —It is far beyond my weak efforts to do justice to the many virtues which adorn the character of this amiable prelate; suffice it therefore to say, that humanity, hospitality, and charity are amongst them.

ON the 23d of December, having with real gratitude thanked our friends at Otranto (the manners and customs of which have been too often wrote on to make a description of them from me necessary,) for their many favours, and taken leave of all our acquaintances, we set out for Naples on our route to England; and arrived in our native country in the latter end of February, 1780; thankful to that kind Providence which protected us through all our travels.

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be a great matter which in the character of
it is the beyond of the world to do in this
world, and we experience every noble thing
remained with the world in a weak thing
and to experience a new world for us.

On the 24th of December, having with me
presented to our friends at Oporto, the
present and volume of which have been
sent to our friends at Oporto, and
from the 11th of January, 1874, and
taken leave of the friends at Oporto
for the purpose of returning to England, and
of visiting our native country in the latter end of
February, 1874, I have the pleasure to send this Provi-
dence which presents to them, all our thanks



